

GAYDAR

magazine

Olivia
Newton John
Joan Jett

Bette & Joan:
The Divine Feud
Michael Feinstein
The Life of
(Charles Nelson) **Reilly**
Model **Matt Walch**

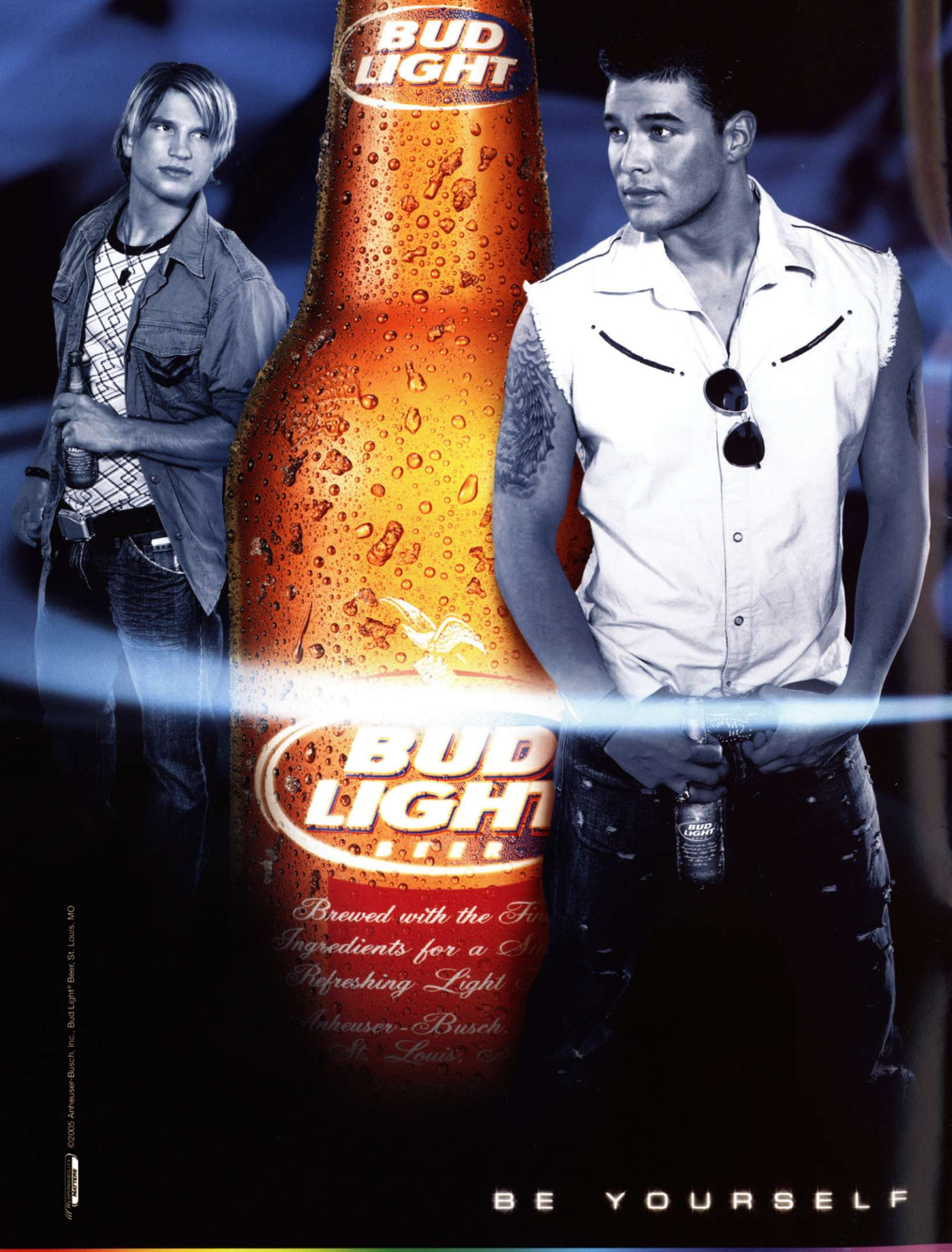
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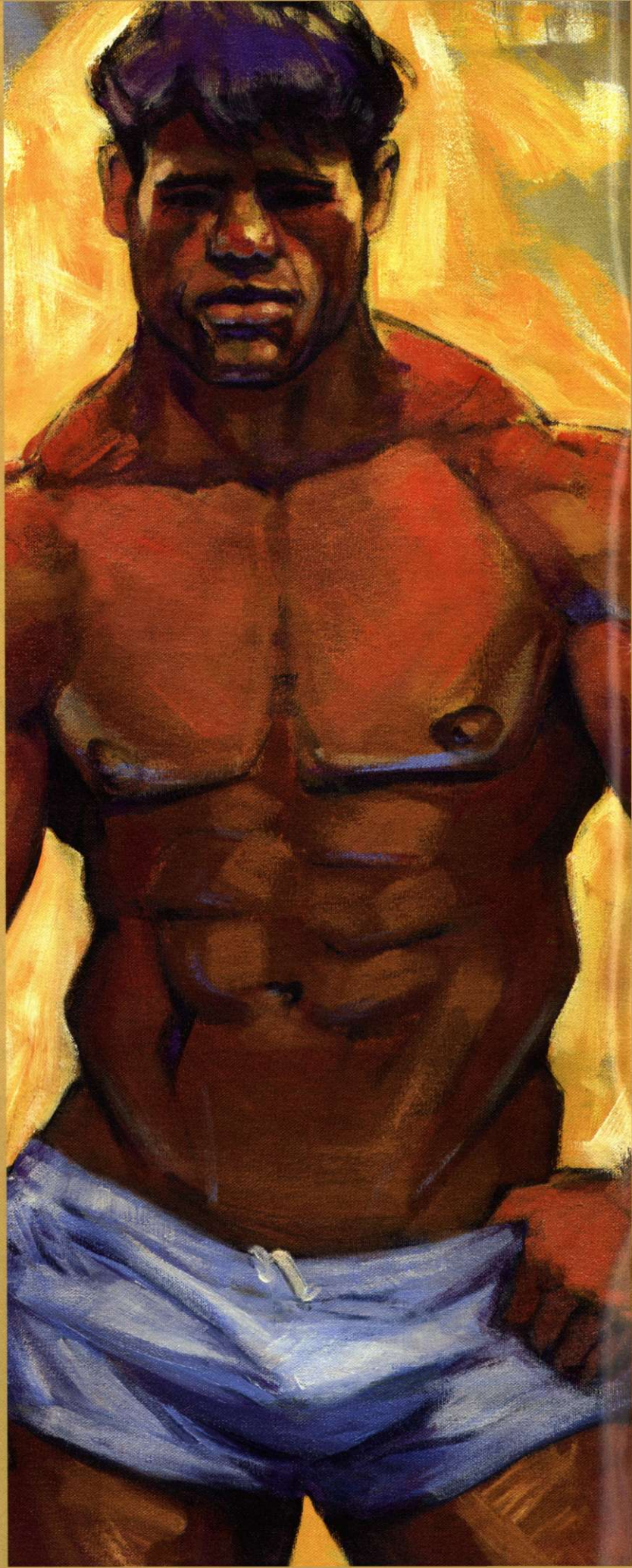
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Artist Tom Jones ipanema hustle

I watched one incredibly muscular guy making his moves. Once he decided which gringo he'd focus on, he'd move within range and then stand gazing out to sea, his beautiful butt, back and legs doing the talking for him. When he knew he was the focus of the other guy's attention, he'd sit his ass on the sand, knees up, quietly fan his lats, gently stroke his shins and forearms, and casually and only occasionally look his way. Time passed, the sun got closer to the edge.



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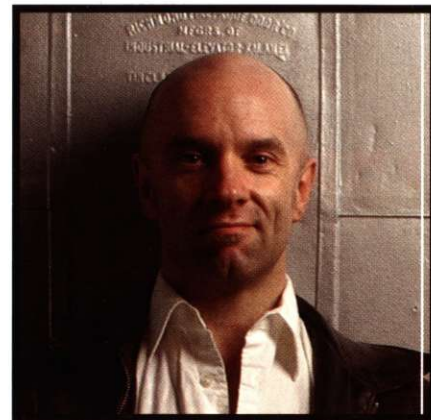
To contact out staff: gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com or

1814 W. Congress St., Second Floor

Letter to the editor

Hello my name is Brad and I found out about Gaydar Magazine from an Ad in a program from a play. When I saw the ad it displayed a very hot male model and it aroused me quite a bit. It inspired me to come out of the closet and now I have a boyfriend in whom I share very passionate nights with. I just want to thank you very much and keep up the good work!

Love, Brad



Letter from the Editor

We're still here.

Welcome to the issue that was never supposed to be. AKA Winter 2007. Over the past year Gaydar Magazine has experienced some structural changes, internal personal changes and offers to purchase the publication. There were rumors and there were truths. It's impossible to address all the rumors as I probably haven't heard them all. Here are the truths. My business partner got relocated for his full time job. Our graphic designer moved 90 minutes away. And, so far, we've entertained three offers to buy Gaydar Magazine. So, we took an issue off, wondering if Gaydar Magazine would return. Because of community support, we have. All of the aforementioned changes have helped me to redirect the focus of Gaydar Magazine. We are based in the Lehigh Valley and with this issue will start to feature more about the events and people who make up the GLBTA community here in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Kutztown, Quakertown, Emmaus, Fogelsville, Northampton, Bangor etc. As a start, Liz Bradbury interviews Frank Whalen about his separation from The Morning Call. We spotlight the TakeOver Lehigh Valley boys and American Hairlines/PopMart owners, Dave & Dru. The Theatre Outlet's all male version of Shakespeare's R&J was a local entertainment highlight of 2006. Locals, Rick & Russ and a dozen friends go on a gay cruise to Puerto Vallarta. We'll keep you posted on the New Jersey marriage watch and what it means for us. We will continue to interview internationally recognized entertainers like every lesbian's bad girl crush, Joan Jett and my first crush, Olivia Newton-John (I don't know when I realized I like boys, but I still love her). We will continue to introduce the works of great painters and photographers like Tom Jones, J.D.Dragon and Lewis Peyton. We have toned down the "skin", but will continue to have a model or two especially if they are part of a photographer's portfolio or like Matt Walch, seem to hit every gay male fantasy/stereotype out there. No more backsides or (sigh) pubes. I don't get it. Most other mainstream gay mags (Genre, Out, Instinct) show pubes. The outcry has been such that we will refrain and I'll buy those other publications for myself. We will continue to bring you gay icons who have made or are making a difference like Michael Feinstein and Charles Nelson Reilly. We will continue to introduce newcomers like singer/songwriter/hotties Jason & deMarco and hilarious relocated-to-Los Angeles-from-the-Lehigh Valley comedienne Virginia Mosey. We'll also suggest new and old reading material like Shaun Considine's wickedly amusing tale of two divas in Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud. And, I've saved the best for last. Hopefully we will continue to be a place for our amazingly adventurous advertisers to reach out to new consumers. My hope is that everyone who reads this will patronize them throughout the year. Thanks to Dan Mare for doing this layout and to his wife Mina, for giving up time with Dan while he did it. Thanks to the Lehigh Valley community for supporting Gaydar Magazine. This is also an invitation to those reading GM who live beyond the Lehigh Valley to come and visit. I did 17 years ago.

I'm still here.

Stephen Libby

Editor-in-Chief

gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com



Steve Libby, Olivia Newton-John, Rick Bullaro, Mike Sinclair, Gary Gaugler

Read about Rick and Mike's trip to Puerto Vallarta on page 12

Gary Interview with author Shaun Considine starts on page 42

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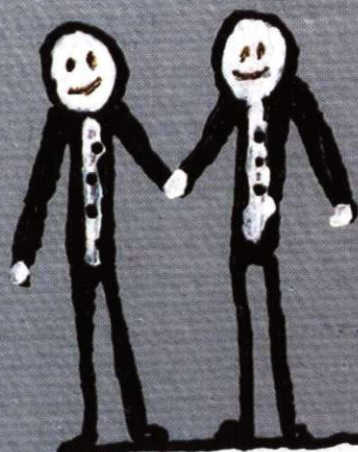
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In The News

New Jersey Supreme Court Rules for Equality

(Philadelphia, PA)-- In a groundbreaking decision, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled on October 25, 2006 that lesbian and gay couples must be granted equal relationship rights under the law.

In the Court's opinion in *Lewis v. Harris*, New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Barry Albin stated, "To comply with the equal protection guarantee...of the New Jersey Constitution, the State must provide to committed same-sex couples, on equal terms, the full rights and benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples." The Court gave the New Jersey legislature 180 days to decide whether to amend the marriage statutes to include same-sex couples or enact a parallel structure with all the rights and benefits of marriage.

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, formerly the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, praised the decision. "This is a critical step towards achieving true equality and justice for lesbian and gay families. We urge the New Jersey legislature to treat all families equally by granting marriage for all committed couples," said Stacey Sobel, Equality Advocates' executive director.

It is unclear at this time what the impact of the decision will be on Pennsylvania's same-sex couples. It will not, however, affect the 1996 Pennsylvania Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibits same-sex couples from being married in this state. That legislation also states that Pennsylvania will not recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

Lee Carpenter, the legal director of Equality Advocates added, "The reality is that thousands of gay and lesbian Pennsylvanians are involved in committed, loving relationships, pay their taxes, and contribute to their communities. However, these citizens are denied the very basic legal protections that others take for granted, such as the right to visit a loved one in the hospital or automatically inherit property. We hope that in the coming years Pennsylvania will remedy what is clearly an unjust situation."

Pennsylvania House Introduces LGBT Non-Discrimination Bill

On October 18, 2006, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives introduced legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations -- take action now by asking your legislators to support the bill, HB 3000, and the Senate version, SB 912.

The Center worked to gather the record number of 57 bi-partisan House co-sponsors who supported amending the state's Human Relations Act and developed its language with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Identical legislation, Senate Bill 912, was introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 16, 2006. The Senate legislation is co-sponsored by 17 of the Senate's 50 members.

Thirteen Pennsylvania municipalities have already enacted civil rights laws including protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. These municipalities are Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Swarthmore, West Chester and York. State College also has an ordinance that only covers sexual orientation discrimination in housing.

While some of our state's residents and visitors are covered by these ordinances, LGBT people can be discriminated against without any recourse by simply crossing the city, county or borough line. The lack of uniform policy across the state also leads to confusion for LGBT people and employers, landlords and businesses.

Current Pennsylvania law provides basic legal protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, education and the use of a guide dog.

The Center is working with a coalition of allies from the Value All Families Coalition to see that this legislation is passed into state law. The coalition is comprised of LGBT organizations, civil rights groups, labor unions and religious organizations, among others.

Please join us by writing to your state legislators! Let them know that you think it is only fair to protect LGBT people from being fired, thrown out of their homes, or refused services, simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Your voice is especially important if you have been the victim of this type of discrimination in Pennsylvania.

Reprinted with permission from Stacey Sobel, Center for Lesbian and Gay Rights www.center4civilrights.org

Takeover Lehigh Valley

Gaydar Magazine: How was TakeOver Lehigh Valley started?

Michael Amory: Takeover Lehigh Valley began in August 2005 with our first event at Grille 3501. Its inception began after I traveled to visit my friend in Charlotte, NC. My friend told me that I need to come on a weekend that they do Takeover where twice a month gays "takeover" a straight bar and that it was a blast. When I visited he took me to their event (which was a pool party on the rooftop of the Holiday Inn Downtown and boasted 200+ people). I was fascinated and asked the organizers how they did it. He said that they were sick of having nowhere to go for Friday happy hours and wanted an alternative to the late night and limited gay-bar scene in Charlotte. So they got a small group of friends together, each of them merged their email lists and invited everyone they knew. From there it was history. Charlotte has been doing it for 2 years and boasts over 1300 people on their email list and 200-300 people at each event. When I told my friends Michael Henn and Aaron Renninger about the event their reaction was "WE TOTALLY NEED TO DO THAT HERE", in the Lehigh Valley. So we spread the word with all of our friends, merged our email lists, approached the first lounge, sent out an e-vite and from there it took off.

GM: What is the purpose of TakeOver LV?

MA: Takeover Lehigh Valley is a "movement" to present new venues for gay & lesbian individuals and their friends to socialize and have fun. Although we have no formal political agenda we have a definite agenda to have fun and make the Lehigh Valley gay community more visible. We also want the community to see that the local gay community is a vibrant diverse group of individuals from all walks of life, therefore breaking down stereotypes and prejudices. We also do not want to compete with the Valley's gay establishments, on the contrary, we are hoping to keep the gays in the Valley and hopefully have them head to these establishments afterwards (which we've noticed is happening quite considerably). The mantra of the gay community in the Lehigh Valley is that "there is nothing to do" so we are trying to change that. We all know there is a huge gay and lesbian population in the Valley and its time we start using the power of the pink dollar to encourage businesses to be gay-friendly and even cater to us a little more. We are hoping to stand up and be counted" by local mainstream entertainment venues. This is happening; each place we have been has asked us to come back and has expressed that they loved our crowd. In addition it is one of the few opportunities in the area for gay and straight people to mix and feel comfortable together.

GM: How many people attended the first vs the most recent TakeOverLV?

MA: Each Takeover has grown exponentially we started with 35 people at our first event over a year ago now most of our events boast up to 150 people.

GM: How would you suggest other communities start their own TakeOver?

MA: I think it depends on the community. I know that some large cities do a similar thing called "Guerilla Queer Bar" <http://www.geocities.com/guerrillaqueerbar/> where they takeover a straight bar on various Fridays, but they do not generally tell the bar. I don't think that would work in smaller cities and towns. We found that most establishments we approach are a little leery at first but when we explain to them what our purpose is and present ourselves in a professional manner they are eager to have us. Its always good to start with upscale places that are known to be gay friendly, have gay employees, etc. Make sure you enlist enough of people and help at first to get a good turnout and spread the word. We then sent out an e-vite and invited all those people on the list to add as many people as they wanted. Eventually the e-vite list got too big and we were lucky to have a friend who is a web-designer who designed our website. Our website now is very popular, we include pics from each event and have a few sponsors so that we don't have to pay for it by ourselves. That really is our only expense and it pretty much pays for itself.

GM: What do you see for the future of TakeOverLV?

MA: Of course we expect it to continue to grow as word of mouth spreads and people try it out. We also would like to provide a wider range of types of social events/venues for GLBT folk to participate. We want to increase the variety of types of gatherings ie: parks, bus-trips, tours, Dorney Park (gay day), wine-tasting, theater (we promoted a jazz event at Lehigh University in early December). Eventually we would like Takeover to identify and foster gay-friendly businesses and provide an opportunity for the community to support these businesses and go beyond social networking to professional networking.

Our ultimate goal is to radically increase the number of "things to do" for the GLBT community in the Lehigh Valley and to make the Lehigh Valley a highly attractive place for GLBT to relocate and retain those who are already here. We also want to influence other cities/regions to do the same thing.



Michael Henn

Michael Amory

Aaron Renninger

Frank Whelan vs The Morning Call

When Morning Call feature writer Frank Whelan and his partner of 25 years, Bob Wittman were asked by Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley to be the Grand Marshalls of this year's Pride Festival Parade, Frank and Bob felt it was one of the biggest honors of their lives. Then Frank got a call from his boss and suddenly realized that the job he'd had for 26 years was in jeopardy if he accepted Pride's honor.

"Conversation with Frank Whelan" by Liz Bradbury

(This article also appeared in the Liz Out Loud column by Liz Bradbury in the August/September Issue of the Valley Gay Press)

L: Tell us what happened.

FW: In March, Pride contacted us about being Grand Marshalls and we were honored. We actually looked at the ethics code of the paper and there wasn't a conflict. This was a personal thing for us. And after all, the Morning Call was funding the festival through Merge. (Merge Digital, a weekly alternative paper is part of the Morning Call. Merge financially supported the festival.) We contacted Merge in case they wanted to cover our participation, but never heard back from them.

L: (Looking at the ethics code) The code says: you can't hold public office, or work on a campaign for a candidate, or an issue or political party. You can't work on a petition drive and you can't take part in a demonstration for a cause...did the MCall folks think that the Pride parade was some kind of demonstration?

FW: Ardith Hilliard (Executive Editor of the Morning Call) actually called me into her office and yelled at me. She said that the parade was a demonstration for gay marriage because Pride had said that our relationship supports the need for marriage equality and that since gay marriage was such a controversial issue, my being part of the parade would give the appearance of bias.

This was a shock, here she was yelling that I couldn't be part of this thing, and I was trying to explain to her that the parade and festival are just a celebration of the culture of a minority group that I'm a member of. I thought the Morning Call would be proud that one of their people was honored this way, but (Hilliard) kept insisting it was a rally for gay marriage.

L: And of course anyone who is familiar with the parade and the festival knows that it's not a demonstration or a rally. It's a parade and festival. like the Puerto Rican Cultural parade and festival.

FW: (Hilliard) said this was the same as if I were a Latino reporter and I was marching in a demonstration for immigration rights. I pointed out that this would be like telling a black employee that he could not march with his church in a parade honoring Martin Luther King. And she said she didn't know about that.

This was happening just two days before the festival. Hilliard called me again and insisted that I decide right that minute what I would do. She told me that it would influence my job if I went ahead and participated, but she wouldn't say exactly what the consequences would be. I just tried to tell her that by not participating, it would be like denying everything about my life and my relationship. I wanted to speak to Bob before I decided. So I ended the call.

The night before the festival she called again and demanded I tell her what I was going to do. Finally, I caved in and told her I would skip the parade. But when I got off the phone, I talked it over with Bob and thought about it some more... and I decided this was just too important. This was my life, my civil rights, my soul...I called her back and said, "I have to do this."

L: It's interesting that the MCall actually has a very supportive stand on gay issues. They have a non-discrimination policy. They give domestic partner benefits that you have even used for Bob. They were paying for part of the festival through Merge. And the paper itself has had supportive editorials that condemned the Constitutional Amendments and the Birmelin Amendments, and supported the hate crimes law and Allentown's anti-discrimination law.

Go on, what happened then?

FW: So we did the parade and it was a wonderful day. We rode in the first car with Ed Pawlowski, the Mayor of Allentown. But the next day, the article about the event came out.

L: It mentioned you and Bob in the parade, but in the middle it had that legal disclaimer....

(The actual text right in the article said (date - reporter): On Whelan's role as grand marshal, Vicki C. Mayk, Morning Call director of community relations/communications, released a statement quoting Editor Ardith Hilliard, saying:

"Our editorial employees might feel a personal commitment to many issues currently debated in the public arena. However, as journalists, they should not take public positions on such issues because public advocacy gives rise to questions about the newspaper's independence and impartiality. The highest duty of journalists in a democratic society is to provide credible information devoid of favor toward or obligation to any group or agenda.

"A newspaper's responsibility is trust as much as it is news and information. To ensure the credibility and independence of The Morning Call, it is paramount that our journalists guard against conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflict. Accordingly, The Morning Call, like most newspapers, has a Code of Ethics for its journalists to protect our credibility and impartiality.")

L: People might imagine that this statement was inferring you were a biased reporter. Also the article makes it seem as though the parade was some kind of rights march, demanding action on an issue.

FW: The reporter didn't write that statement, it was put into the article by management. Even the picture with the article made it seem like it was a rights march -- they used a small part of an image showing some people on the Diamondz float in a tableau reenacting the first gay rights march, 40 years ago by the Mattachine society...men in suits with signs saying homosexual rights. By showing just a part of the scene it made it look as though these people were marching with signs for same-sex marriage.

L: That would be like showing a picture of a parade float reenacting Washington Crossing the Delaware to make it look like a rally supporting war against England....

FW: I really couldn't go back to work the next day, after all, the article really called into question my professional integrity, and it was trumped up. Even the statement that Carson Kressley was at the festival was false.

L: Where did that part about Carson come from?

FW: Well, it didn't come from the reporter. It just appeared in the article.

L: So much for journalistic integrity....

FW: I was home for two days, and then a messenger arrived at my house with a letter from Ardith Hilliard. I'd already contacted my lawyer about the statement in the article - I felt it was libel and I didn't think I could work under those conditions, not to mention the discrimination issues. I'd told the paper not to contact me directly, to go through my lawyer.

So get this, the letter says that the paper had suspended me for two days - the two days I had already not come to work - and that I'm a valued member of the staff and I am expected back at work the next day. So I called my lawyer, Rick Orolski, and gave him the letter.

We worked out with the paper that I'd take my vacation days. I didn't want to go back unless they made a very clear apology. We had some other requests too. But the paper wouldn't go along with them.

L: It's important for people to know that even if this had been a rights march - which it wasn't - you don't cover news.

FW: No, I'm a features reporter. ("Ask Frank" - a column about local history and "The Scene", a gossip society column) I've never covered any news stories on politics, civil rights issues... certainly I've never covered anything on gay rights issues. That wasn't my job.

L: So what do you think this was really about?

FW: Last year the paper offered a number of long-time employees a buy-out severance package. It's much cheaper to hire young people out of college than to pay experienced employees like me. A lot of people took it, but I decided not too. Maybe they have a plan to sell the paper and the want costs to be low.

Then there's this ethics issue. Management seems to now feel the paper should be completely separate from the community.

You know, there was a time when Don Miller ran the paper, his family had started it, Don worked to make Allentown a better place. He was responsible for some positive city programs. But Ardith Hilliard seems to say she would never do something like that. She seems to feel that would show bias.

By the way, Don Miller was the Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day parade for years! Would they feel that was an endorsement of the Catholic Church's policies?

L: Or maybe the Irish Republican Army?!

FW: I think the main problem is that people (in the majority) just don't get it. They don't know what it's like to be discriminated against. They can't imagine what anti-gay discrimination is like, so they just deny it exists.

A minority person is not a biased reporter just because they are a member of a minority. Minority members who are writing about minority issues bring a unique understanding to those issues that often makes them a better reporter. To suggest a minority person cannot report on an issue without partiality, simply because they are a minority, is a bigoted attitude.

At one point, I was told that if they allowed me to do this then it would "open the flood gates," ...what prejudiced statement.

L: Meaning it would create an out of control mob at the paper? The ethics policy has only been in place for about a year, so does that mean the reporters were out of control before?

FW: The paper didn't used to be this way. This policy was put in place by Ardith Hilliard.

One of the last things I said to her was, "Well Ardith, I guess the rest of us just aren't as pure as you are."

L: The public response to this seems to be completely on your side. Even anti-gay people are supporting your rights over the paper.

FW: Yeah, there have been articles about it all over the country. (Even in the current Advocate Magazine.)

L: So, what's next.

FW: Well, my vacation days are up and another messenger delivered a letter saying I had to come back. But, I can't go back there. If I did, it would be condoning their actions.

This was a violation of my civil rights. In the past, a lot of gay men and lesbians fought for the rights I have. I can't give them up for anything.

Update: That's what was happening when we last heard from Frank. Now, here's an update...

Frank Whelan now reports that his lawyer and the lawyers for the Tribune Company which owns the Morning Call, have now "reached an amicable Agreement" that "was fair and generous," as a result of negotiations. That's all Frank can say about the agreement.

The Morning Call has admitted no wrong doing. Frank Whelan seems pleased with the resolution. Frank is now the Executive Director of Community Outreach for the Lehigh County Historical Society in Allentown. Frank says he's honored to be working with this group and with LC Historical Society Executive Director Joseph Garrera. Frank feels valued there, as an employee.

Liz Bradbury is executive director of the Pennsylvania Diversity Network and the publisher of the Valley Gay Press. She can be reached at lbradbury@padiversity.org

Joan Jett

With the exception of cell phones at the movies and computer crashes, I love technology. That said, it is the latter reason why we are using this pre-fab profile of Joan Jett. I had done an exclusive phone interview with her. We discussed what's so special about the name Joan (Of Arc, Crawford, Baez, Collins, Rivers) that helps define these uncompromising and strong-willed women. She hadn't really thought about it. How does she like to listen to music? LP's for the artwork and digital for the clarity. And, she doesn't care how people hear her music, as long as they do. Post crash, and deadline looming we decided to go with plan B. Included is a history of JJ & the Blackhearts and a preview of her latest disc, *Sinner*. While you enjoy the read, I'm going to go blow up my computer with a cherrybomb.

Few artists boast a wider appeal than Joan Jett. Beloved by punks, indie rockers, pop lovers, riot grrrls, metal heads, classic rockers, radicals and conservatives, she is 1) a genuine icon and an influential, trailblazing musician, going back to when she helped break down rock's gender barriers and helped pioneer punk music with her teenage band, The Runaways; 2) a genuine star, with no less than nine Top 40 hit singles and eight Platinum and Gold LPs; 3) a renaissance woman, actress on stage and screen, and knowledgeable and entertaining host of "Joan Jett's Radio Revolution" on Little Steven's Sirius Satellite Radio's Underground Garage (Channel 25); and 4) a continually challenging artist, not content to rest on past laurels.

All this and more comes together as Joan brings you her brand new album, *SINNER*, which is bound to delight and surprise even her biggest fans. On the one hand it's pure Jett, with chunky, kick-ass riffs, robust vocals, and catchy hooks on the likes of "Five", "Watersign", "Baby Blue" and "Tube Talkin'" (all with Bikini Kill/Le Tigre's Kathleen Hanna) and A.C.D.C. It's the kind of music she's been known for since her smash hit "I Love Rock n' Roll" spent eight weeks at #1 in 1982 and spurred 10 million sales of her LP by the same name. On the other hand, *SINNER* is a thrilling restatement of her original punk roots, on the boldly philosophical "Naked" and the provocative "Five". *SINNER* is, in short, a blasting, aggressive record.

At only 17, Joan was headlining clubs like CBGBs with bands such as Tom Petty, Talking Heads, Television and Cheap Trick opening up for her, and she later toured with the Ramones. Joan has since worked with Bikini Kill, Peaches, Ian MacKaye of Fugazi, Lars Fredrickson of Rancid, Bratmobile, L7, The Gits, The Replacements' Paul Westerberg, The Sex Pistols and Blondie among others. Joan produced G.I., the lone album of the seminal L.A. punk act, The Germs.

About her Sirius radio show, "That's been interesting, and different. I never aspired to it, I'm really kind of



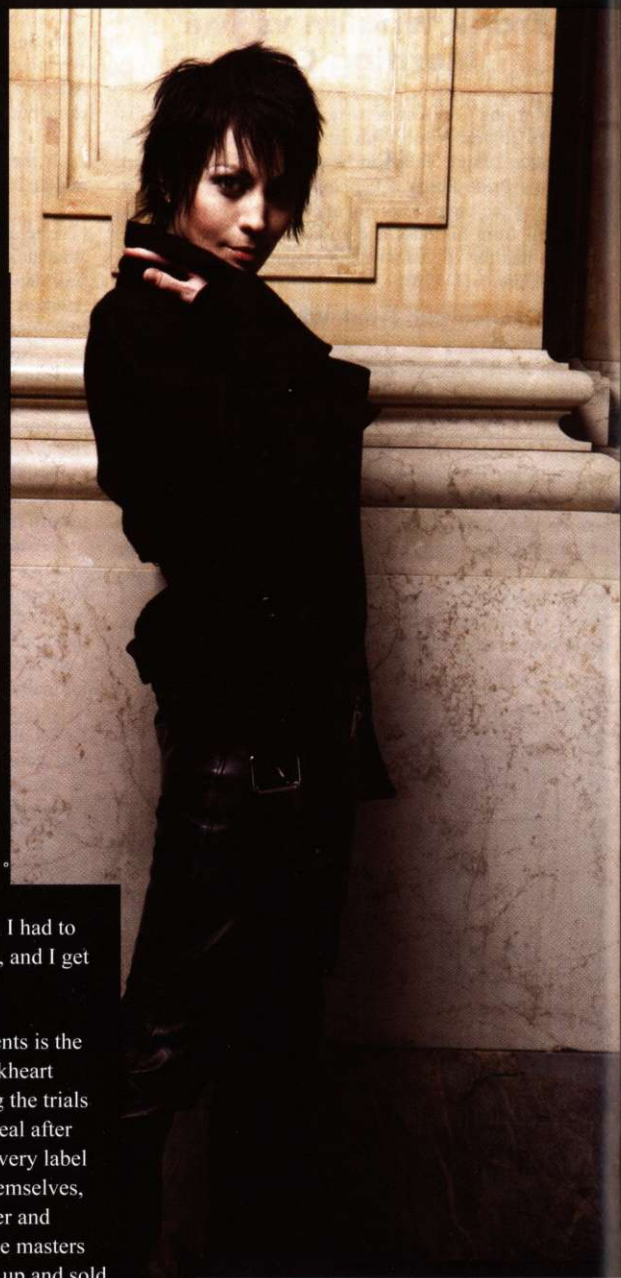
shy, so for me to get on the radio and talk, I had to build up to it. But I'm having a good time, and I get to turn people on to different things!"


One of Joan Jett's proudest accomplishments is the 25th anniversary of her record label, Blackheart Records. This company was forged during the trials and tribulations of trying to get a record deal after The Runaways, and she was rejected by every label out there....28 to be exact. Believing in themselves, Joan and her long-time songwriting partner and producer, Kenny Laguna, decided to be the masters of their own fates and pressed the records up and sold them out of the trunk of Kenny's car. It was almost immediately that they had a hit on their hands, and the company has not only survived, but flourished, in a volatile record industry.

Jett stands at a point in her life where she can appreciate her past and longevity, but still look towards the future. It is an exciting time. "I went to a school reunion in Maryland not long ago and some people reminded me I had said I was going to go to California to become a rock n roll star! I hadn't remembered that I had focused on it that early!!! To say that as a kid and actually do it is pretty cool. It just goes to show you that if you can believe in yourself, if you're lucky and have the right timing, you have a shot. I'm an example of what can be, if you don't give up!

Profile used with permission from the Ken Phillips Publicity Group

Photos by Cody Smyth, Michael Rubenstein and Monty Brinton



A close-up portrait of a woman with dark, layered hair and bangs. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a black leather jacket with a silver chain necklace. Her right hand is raised near her face, with fingers slightly spread. The background is plain white.

"I'm having a good time, and I
get to turn people on to different
things!"



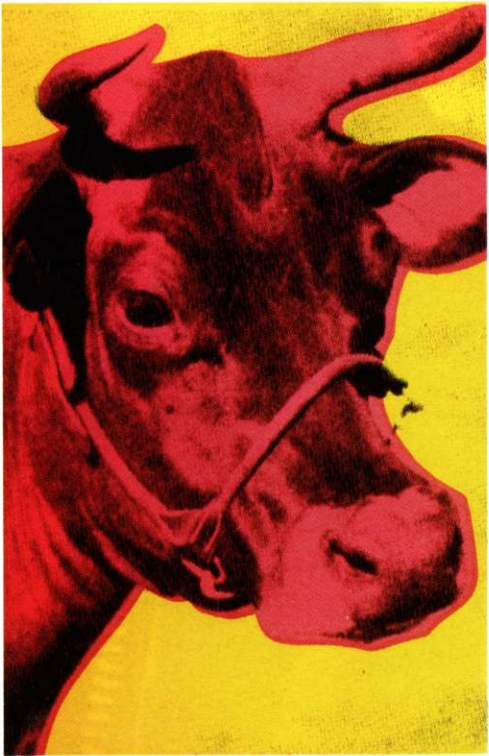
Allentown Art Museum recently played host to a major exhibition of work by Pop artist Andy Warhol. Watch for more exhibits from glbt artists by visiting AAM online at allentownartmuseum.org All pictures courtesy of The Allentown Art Museum.

Andy Warhol, American (1928–1987). *Flowers*, 1964, offset lithograph on paper. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Founding Collection. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

Andy Warhol, American (1928–1987). *Liz*, 1967, offset lithograph on paper. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Founding Collection. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

Andy Warhol, American (1928–1987). *Self-Portrait*, c. 1967, screenprint on vinyl. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Founding Collection. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

Andy Warhol, American (1928–1987). *Cow*, 1966, screenprint on wallpaper. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Founding Collection. © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.



DJ Brett Henrichsen by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: Who are your idols and what motivated you to become a DJ?

Brett Henrichsen: My idols musically are DJ's Tiesto and Paul Oakenfold, who have taken being a DJ to a whole new level. Also, after seeing the Confessions Tour, I have an entirely new respect and admiration for Madonna. Music is my passion, and the thrill of taking thousands of people on a musical journey with you is what motivated me to become a DJ.

GM: What were you playing and where were you when you first thought, "I'm fuckin' good at this!"?

BH: Ha ha! I don't think I've ever had THAT exact thought. Instead, I had an emotional moment this year playing Sydney's Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras to over 14,000 people. At the end of my set, looking out over all these people and realizing this was going to be one of the highlights of my career, and seeing so many smiling faces, I pretty much started to cry from the excitement and happiness!

GM: What's your wildest groupie story?

BH: I wish I had one. I'm a DJ, not a rock star. I think DJ as a rock star is a myth!

GM: Where'd you get that banging body?

BH: McDonald's and lots of trips to the gym.

GM: Who's the next big thing?

BH: Well, she's already on her way, but I think everyone is universally loving Kelly Clarkson - I pretty much love every song she is putting out.

Top Ten of All Time

(in no particular order)

Olive - Outlaw
Betsy Cook - Love is the Groove
Sunscream - When
Grace - Down to Earth
Donna Lewis - Fool's Paradise
Madonna - Like A Prayer
Voyage - Souvenirs
Madonna - Ray of Light
Abba - Visitors
Angunn - Snow on the Sahara

Top Ten for Late '06

Nelly Furtado - Promiscuous
Tony Moran & Deep Influence - Café Com Alegria
Natasha Bedingfield - Unwritten
Christina Aguilera - Ain't No Other Man
Roger Sanchez - Lost
Rihanna - Unfaithful
Iio - Is It Love
Kelly Clarkson - Walk Away
Bob Sinclar - World, Hold On
Pussycat Dolls - Buttons

For more info on Brett, visit his website at www.masterbeat.com

Wish You Were Here

Pirate Raids and Ratings

Ahoy maties !! First off, let me introduce myself. My name is Russ Fernsler. My partner, Rick and I are founding members of a social club we call the "Pirates of Atlantis". Our core group of members is 4 couples and 3 singles who all met in March of 2005 on a Southern Caribbean Cruise chartered by *Atlantis Events*. Since that time, we've all reunited at various other activities, and expanded our circle to include our friends from home, growing our group of pirates. The Pirates of Atlantis now number over 30 (although we don't all go to every event), and we are recognized by the *Atlantis* team members whenever we show up. We all get matching shirts that we wear the first night of any event to identify our group. The shirts are designed by two of the Pirates, and change with each event we attend.

Our latest adventure was an all-inclusive week at the Vallarta Palace resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from November 4 – 11, 2006. The pirates were 16 strong this trip, including 7 "newbies" - couples from Germany and Dallas and three new singles, including Gaydar co-publisher Jan Elsasser and Business manager Michael Sinclair. Here's a picture of the group of us wearing our latest shirts.



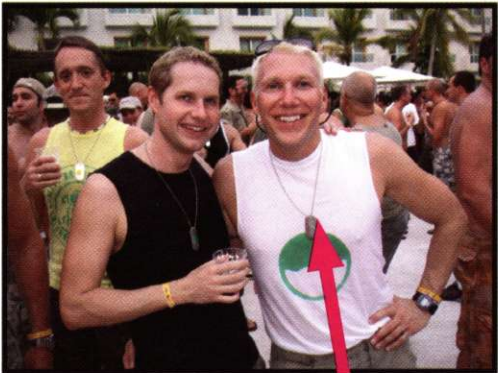
This was our first land-based trip with *Atlantis*, and we weren't sure what to expect. From our previous cruises, we knew to expect theme dances, arranged activities and much socializing. *Atlantis* does a great job of keeping you informed once your trip begins, and offering something for everyone. Their team members really get to interact with the guests and are friendly, knowledgeable and energetic. The one big difference that I noticed between the cruises and the land-based event was that the opportunities to interact with the team members are much greater at the land-based events. Mostly this is because instead of 2000 – 3000 guests spread over a ship, there were only 550 guests, and we were pretty much gathered around the hotel pool much of the day.

The Vallarta Palace resort is newly remodeled, and was – quite simply – immaculate. Huge marble and glass showers, a Jacuzzi tub in every room, and an ocean view that couldn't be beat! Here's a picture from our window showing the grounds and the pool area (See above).

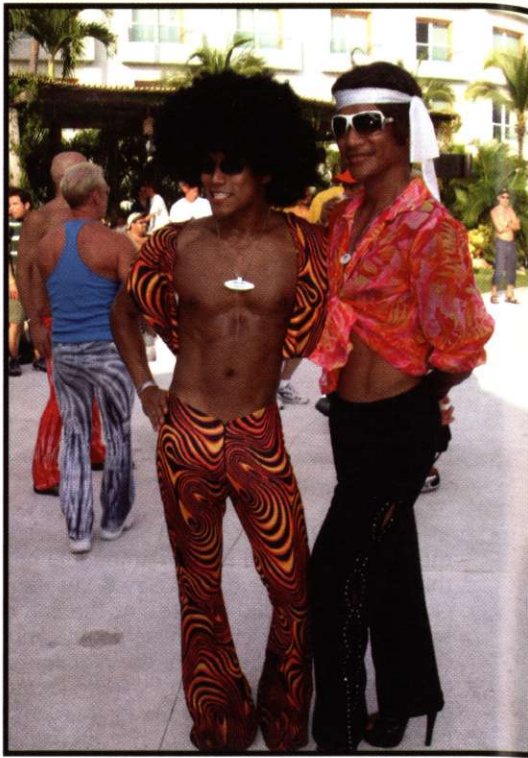


Every *Atlantis* event has some standard activities. There is a themed "tea dance" from 4-6 daily, some nightly entertainment ~ 9 pm, and then a late-night disco dance – also themed. While some themes vary from trip to trip, some continuing favorites are;

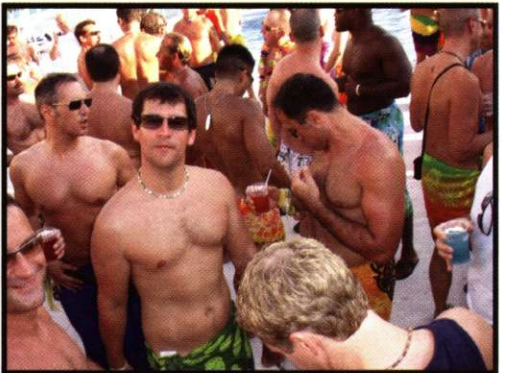
1) The Dog-Tag tea dance. At this event you show up wearing some sort of military or camo clothing and you are provided with a dog-tag and your choice of colored dots to place on it. A green dot means "Available", a yellow dot means "buy me a drink and we'll talk about it", a red dot means "Taken" or "Unavailable". Of course, being the resourceful gay folk that we are, there are all sorts of varieties that people put on the tags. Multiple green dots, red and green dots, - the combinations were endless (and sometimes confusing). But a lot of fun is had by all.



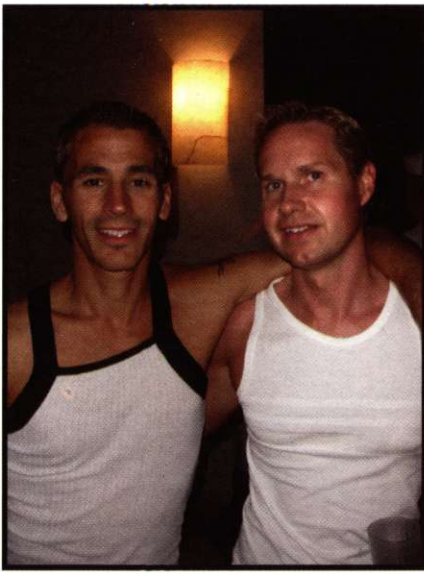
2) The 70's Disco tea dance. At this event you wear your best 70's clothes and dance to the hits of Donna Summer, The Village People and Abba. Some of the costumes are great, some are over the top, and some are more restrained, but ALL of them are flammable. (Polyester really goes up in flames quickly !!!)



3) The Tropical Heat tea dance. Here's your excuse to wear that skimpy bathing suit, or the most popular choice – a sarong. (Some of those looked so right, some were just So-Wrong!) Latin music and current dance hits heat up this afternoon soiree.



The evening discos are legendary on the cruises, and I was disappointed to find that on this land-based event most people turned in early, and the nightly discos were almost deserted. There were 2 exceptions to this general rule, however. One was the (recurring) Mardi Gras party. Masks, leather and beads were in full supply, and everyone danced the night away. The other exception was the **ALWAYS** legendary White Party night. This is always the most-anticipated night of any event. While I'd love to include some of the great photos we took, most of the costumes for this event are racy, at best. So here's just a taste of what you can see. For the full effect, you'll have to sign up for an *Atlantis* event yourself !



So that you didn't feel trapped at the resort, *Atlantis* provided chartered activities in the local area to keep you occupied during the day. Mexican cooking classes, shopping excursions and the like were offered. Rick and I chose 2 more active excursions. First we went to a Mexican ranch. We rode horses along a river for ~ 1 hour, then hiked up suspension bridges and cliffs to a beautiful waterfall where we swam, then rode back to the ranch for a nice authentic Mexican lunch and free tequila !! We all agreed that the swimming part made the return trip much harder than the ride in. Something about sand in your shorts while bouncing up and down in the saddle.....OW !!



Our second excursion was a zip-line canopy tour. Here we endured a tortuous hour-long bus ride over some horrible roads 800+ feet up into the mountains. After being fitted with safety gear, you clip yourself on to a rope and glide across between 2 mountains – 800 feet above a river bed. Then a short hike up the hill, and you went back across on another line. There were 10 trips back and forth in all, each longer and faster than the last. It was a fantastic experience, and made the painful bus ride worth it when all was said and done. The boys they had helping you on and off the wire at each location were adorable !! Well worth the price of admission.....



Of course, *Atlantis* had activities planned for every day at the resort, so you could stay there if you wished. Some of our favorites were the "best tan line" contest, (Again pictures must be omitted for the sake of decency....) the tequila water volleyball tournament, (I remember starting that one, but have no memory of how it ended....) and the Atlantis Treasure Hunt. In the last one, 4 of the pirate couples formed 2 teams of 4 and competed. (We split up each of the couples, so that death would not result from playing the game.) For the treasure hunt a total of 26 teams were each given a series of clues, leading them to their next location. At that location the team would have to perform a task to get their next clue. After getting all 11 clues, the two teams completing the course first would then compete head-to-head to win a free trip for 2 back to the resort for next year's Atlantis trip. My team got the first clue right off, only to be given the wrong second clue by the person manning the location. (The boy was cute as a button.... and nearly as smart.) After 20 minutes of mis-direction, we realized our error and raced back to get the correct clue. Then it was a hurried chain of activities such as bed-making in the room of an *Atlantis* team member, setting a table for 4 in a resort restaurant, auditioning "American Idol"-style for 3 of the week's entertainers, and doing the chicken dance in the main ballroom. In the end we placed second, and made it to the finals. (Our partners came in 3rd, which we have no intention of letting them forget.) In the tense finale we correctly arranged a series of 6 people holding cards with the titles of Madonna songs in the correct chronological order, and managed to be the grand prize winners! Woo Hoo !! The 4 of us divided the prize among ourselves, and all 4 couples will be returning next year for more pirate adventures.

Atlantis Events puts on a great time, and operates with class and experience. 2006 is their 15th year in business, and it's easy to see why they've been so successful. The Pirates of Atlantis will keep getting stronger and larger, and we'll keep attending these events. We're always looking for a few new cabin boys. Anyone out there interested in applying ??

If so, contact Rick at gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com

Charles Nelson Reilly



Film Director Barry Poltermann

by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: How long have you known Charles Nelson Reilly and how did you meet?

Barry Poltermann: I first met Charles at the Polo Lounge in LA a bit over two years ago. We had contacted his agent to see if there was any existing video of his stage play, which we had heard about years earlier but had never seen. We got a call back a few hours later inviting us to breakfast with Charles. He was an incredibly generous host, and invited us back to his house in Beverly Hills where we watched several hours of raw videotape that fans had shot over the years. The show was amazing. I was blown away by his talent and his stories, and called my good friend Frank Anderson and asked him to help me turn the show into a film.

GM: How did *The Life of Reilly* come to be? What was the process?

BP: After we met with Charles and got the raw videotape of his show, we soon realized there was an abundance of material. He had been doing the show for years, and seldom did the same show twice, so there was a lot to pick from. We cut down the several hours into a two hour "rough cut" that we decided to focus on. Charles hadn't been doing the show for a while, so we had to recreate it. We staged it at the same theater he had originally done the show in North Hollywood. We basically sold tickets and revived it for three nights. Then we cut the nearly four hour performance down to 85 minutes of choice material. Later we added visual elements and music to make it more cinematic.

GM: What period does *TLOR* cover?

BP: Well... pretty much his whole life. It starts with Charles being born in the Bronx, and goes through his teaching days in Florida in the early 90s.

GM: How would you describe CNR? In your opinion, what is his legacy?

BP: Charles is one of the most generous, talented and entertaining people I have ever met in my life. You can't visit him without hearing amazing stories over a perfectly made Manhattan. I knew Charles as an icon from my childhood. Everything from *GHOST AND MRS. MUIR* to *MATCH GAME*. But that is not, I hope, his legacy. I hope that the film brings the depth and talent of this amazing performer to a much wider audience. I think that ultimately his legacy is as a teacher and a storyteller.

GM: What had you done before *TLOR*?

BP: I have mostly made a career out of directing television commercials and working on a couple of independent films. I first directed a film called *ASWANG*, a horror ditty that was released in 1994. Later I edited *AMERICAN MOVIE*, and recently produced a documentary on the WU TANG CLAN called *ROCK THE BELLS*, which is currently on the festival circuit.

GM: Where can people see *TLOR*?

BP: For now you have to keep an eye on film festivals.

For the latest, check out CNR's website at charlesnelson-reilly.com.

GM: Why should gay men see *TLOR*?

BP: I think that everyone should see *LIFE OF REILLY*! The story is a universal one of overcoming adversity and prejudice, one that all of us, and certainly a gay audience, can relate to.

GM: What are you working on next?

BP: I just edited a wonderful film called *THE POOL*, which was directed by my favorite indie director, Chris Smith (who also directed *American Movie*). I hope that everyone will hear a lot more about *THE POOL* next year. I am also working on a film with Frank Anderson, my co-director on *LIFE OF REILLY*, based on the final English tour of Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran in 1960.

GM: What do you do to relax?

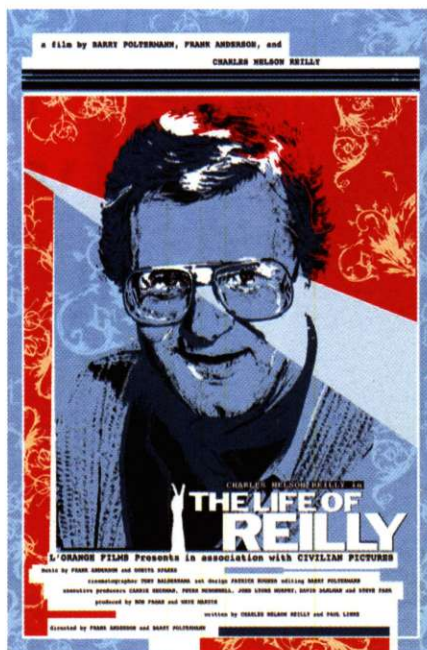
BP: MAKE MOVIES!!!



Director
Barry Poltermann



Director
Frank Anderson



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Is It Better to Buy or Rent?

By Glen Paisley
& Matthew Carl

Prudential Patt, White Real Estate

The market is ripe for buyers right now. Interest rates, although slightly higher than this time last year, are still at an all-time low, and the National Association of REALTORS® predicts that 2006 will be the third all-time best year in real estate. So naturally you should be telling your landlord goodbye and saying hello to your dream home, right? Not so fast. Certainly, owning your own home has its benefits. But, is the dream of homeownership really one you should pursue? It all depends on your circumstance and needs.

Buying a home is such a large investment, possibly the largest purchase you'll make. So, careful deliberation

should be made when deciding which is better for you: rent or buy.

The advantages to being a renter are that your monthly costs are fixed. There's little to no responsibility for maintenance of the property. And, it's easier to pick up and move to another location. However, the disadvantages are your rent typically increases each year and there is no guarantee that your lease will be renewed. In addition, you don't earn any equity nor will you reap the tax advantages of owning.

As a homeowner, you have the benefit of security and stability, as well as the freedom to decorate and remodel. Your property also builds equity and you get the tax benefit. However, when the central heating unit breaks or the roof needs replacing, the repairs are your financial responsibility. And, there is always the possibility of losing on your investment if property values go down.

One tool you can use in your analysis is a Rent -vs- Buy calculator that you can find on Web sites such as AllLehighValleyHomes.com. These calculators allow you to compare the costs of renting and buying. In some cases the amount you spend in rent may be about the same or less than you would pay on a mortgage. However, the tax benefit from owning the home may provide significant savings.

You also need to decide if you can really afford homeownership. If you are on a tight budget it may not be wise to have the added pressure of maintenance costs, property taxes, and insurance. If your credit rating is in need of repair, or you have a high debt to earnings ratio, now may not be the time to purchase a home. Although

you may find a lender, your loan may be at a much higher interest rate using a sub-prime lender. You might be better off taking another year to build your credit score and decrease your debt.

Besides costs, another factor to consider is how long you plan to reside in the home. When you purchase a home, there is a substantial initial investment including the down payment, closing costs, and renovations. It typically takes between five and seven years to recover your initial costs. And depending on your loan payments, it may take a few years before you begin to see a return on your investment.

Your lifestyle also makes a difference for whether you should rent or buy. Will you be able to afford the type of property you want and continue to enjoy the lifestyle you have? Are you starting or changing careers or perhaps you are in a job that requires you to move frequently?

Although homeownership has its benefits, make sure it's the right fit for you depending on your financial and personal situations.

The Glen Paisley & Matthew Carl Team can be reached at Prudential Patt White Real Estate at 484-519-4424 or by email at: GlenPaisley@pattwhite.com and you can check out our web sites at: www.AllLehighValleyHomes.com or www.LockRidgeNews.com.

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Michael Feinstein

Performer Michael Feinstein

by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: Describe a day in the life of Michael Feinstein.

Michael Feinstein: I live in New York and Los Angeles. It's a long road, which I enjoy. Whether performing or not I'm centered around performance and am mindful of my instrument. I practice meditation to clear my head and being. I take a walk in the hills. I live near the Griffith Park area. I go off and explore antique stores and junkshops looking for records. My studio is archiving a massive collection.

GM: You sing about romance and love? What's romantic to you?

MF: There's a big difference between romantic and sexual relationships. I've always been a romantic. I can certainly connect with someone on a "heat level" and connect on a sensual level. But I'm more attracted to the spiritual and romantic.

GM: What do you look for when choosing songs for the Feinory Recordings?

MF: Our focus is to release classic recordings that otherwise fall through the cracks. In regards to the artist they have to be dead (both laugh). Or, really old and close to death.

GM: You've worked with some of the best in the business.

Compare the working styles of Ira Gershwin and Bruce Vilanch?

MF: Bruce is funny, but serious underneath the hair. Hiding inside is a very soulful man who I adore. He's able to look at the world from a place of irony. He can be late with deadlines which is nerve-wracking. But always came ready to work. Ira was methodical and thoughtful. He would work weeks to polish and make sure the product was perfect. He never left anything to the last minute. He loved to teach. I was a perfect environment for me to apprentice at the age of 20. I actually met Bruce through Ira (!) Bruce called the Gershwin house to ask permission to use a score for a skit on the old Donny & Marie Show. Bruce and I became friends and went out on the town often. Some of which I don't remember; it was the late seventies. (both laugh)

GM: Describe the feeling of being awarded the first ever ASCAP American Songbook Award?

MF: It was deeply moving because of who was giving me this citation. I was being trumpeted by all the songwriters and families of songwriters for keeping this music alive. It was a special night.

GM: Who would like to record with?

MF: Many are dead. Ethel Waters who influenced everybody, whether they know it or not. Doris Day, k.d. lang, I love pure voices. Barry Manilow and I have been discussing a project. We've been friends for a number of years.

GM: Would you share a favorite holiday memory?

MF: Spending Christmas at Rosemary Clooney's. She used to call me her sixth kid. I called her my Beverly Hills mom.

GM: Do you have a closing thought for the readers of Gaydar Magazine?

MF: No soap box message. Just that we should treasure every day. Who knows when we'll be blown up at any moment. Life is a gift. We in the US still know a life that is so blessed. When something bothers me I call it a privilege problem and try to remember that.

All-Time Favorite Recordings

1. The Way You Look Tonight - Fred Astaire
2. Where Or When - Dick Haymes
3. Soon - Kaye Ballard
4. How About You- Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney
5. I've Got You Under My Skin - Frank Sinatra
6. Fly Me To The Moon - Peggy Lee
7. There's A Lull In My Life - Nat King Cole and George Shearing
8. Last Night When We Were Young- Judy Garland
9. I Get Along Without You Very Well - Rosemary Clooney
10. All The Way - Keely Smith

Shawn Bausher's Ins & Outs for Winter 2007

WHAT'S IN

Tapered leg – again!

Monk strap shoes

Lacoste

Pin striped suits

Down coats

Croc's – ugly as hell but comfortable

Brown

Democrats

TV stars coming OUT - THANK YOU!!!

Melrose Place on DVD – Finally, Amanda Woodward is back

Rosie ("The View" is MORE entertaining than ever!)

Anna Nicole Smith – that woman sure knows how to get publicity

Anchorwomen (go Katie!)

Organics

Lifestyle Centers

WHAT'S OUT

Square toe shoes – unless you are Frankenstein

Bright colors

Tommy Hilfiger

Double breasted jackets

Republicans

Tom Cruise's career – now let's all jump on a sofa

Mel Gibson – not that we liked you in the first place

Star Jones – her self-righteousness got her booted from "The View" YEAH!!!

"Lost" on ABC – I love this show, but really....it needs to end!

Anchormen

Stories about botched plastic surgery - uh...surgery is always a risk, here's an idea...don't have it!!!!

Non-organic



Chloe Sevigny

What drew you to 3 needles?

The character. That and I grew up in a Catholic home. I always wanted to play a nun; someone who had an obligation but was torn about her values when it comes to doing what's right. I also found myself learning so much about the disease that I didn't know. I was shocked and appalled to know how other cultures and our own respond to it. I liked to be a part of a film that inspires others to become involved and educate those that don't know.

Most challenging role and why?

I'm in a series called Big Love on HBO and my character Nicki is nothing like my personality. She's a very manic person and I'm very calm so it was challenging. The shoot was six months and I've never shot something that long. It was very challenging.

Thoughts on being a style icon.

When I was younger it was very annoying because I wanted to be seen for my talent. Now I think it's not a bad thing to be noticed for. I love fashion and it's flattering to know you helped start a trend.

Things passionate about.

I'm very passionate about my friendships. I have lots of girlfriends and I try very hard to maintain those relationships no matter how busy I am with my work. I'm also very passionate about films and family.

What's next?

I have three new movies coming out. "Lying" "Zodiac" "Sisters"

Cookie: Gingerbread

Song: Sonny Morrissey

Actress: Sissy Spacek

City: NYC

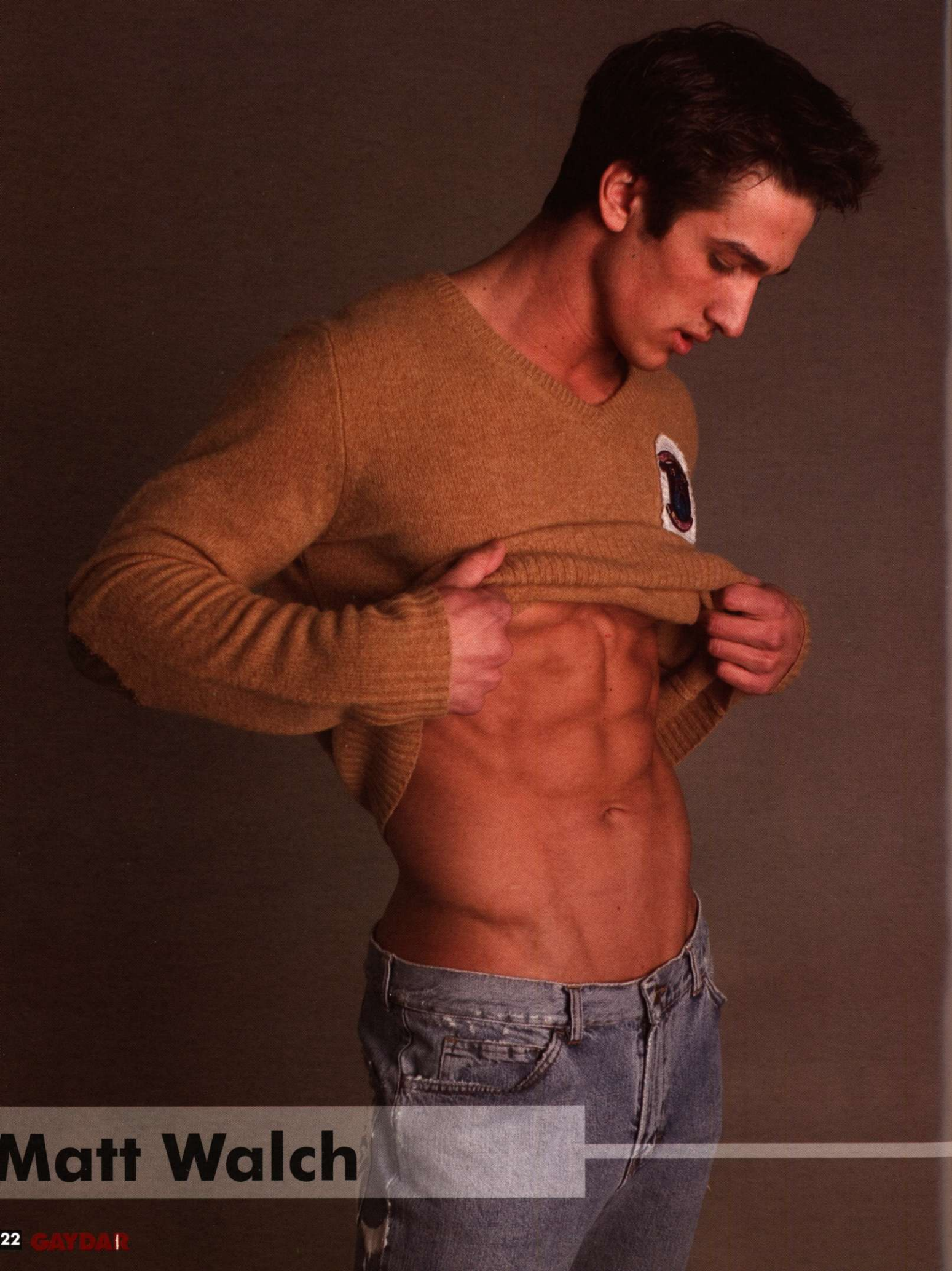
O/S Kisser: Peter Saarsgard

Chloe Sevigny at The LGBT
Film Festival In Philadelphia
Interview and photo by steve libb

Model Profile: Matt Walch



All photos courtesy of
mega-muscle.net



Matt Walch

Matt Walsh



Mega Muscle Model

Matt Walch

by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: You were born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. Who and what were your motivations/ inspirations growing up?

Matt Walch: Since I was little, I have been around my dad and his lifting regimens. There were always muscle magazines laying around which I was always reading and wishing I could be big like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Franco Columbo. I still remember my first trip to Gold's Gym with my dad and brother who is 3 years younger. I was 15 yrs old and had it set in my mind that I was going to get big, and with the help of my dad, the process started...my father started me off on an extremely hard exercise program full of supersets and pyramiding down. I still remember that first day when I told my father I liked the burn and the pain from lifting, and my little brother crying cause it hurt, he didn't come back for a couple years.

GM: You were a competitive bareback rider/ roper. You know our readers are wanting to know if you do anything else bareback?

BH: HAHA! No, strictly bareback on the broncs.

GM: Dating status? And do you prefer boys or girls?

BH: I am currently single but dating. I was in a pretty serious relationship for several years but now I am just having fun and seeing what comes along. I don't date boys or girls - prefer adults!

GM: What's it like being a model? Do you get up in the morning and drop to your knees and thank God for your beautiful face and perfect body? How is life different for you versus a non-model type?

BH: You love to think of me dropping to my knees don't you! I live in a pretty rural area of Oregon so modeling doesn't really factor into my day to day existence.

GM: Would you mind sharing some diet and workout tips for our readers?

BH: Absolutely not! The best thing is to get advice from professionals. I recommend going to www.mattwalch.com and buying my workout video or go to www.megamusclefitness.com and sign up for personalized online training with me.

GM: Fitness pro, firefighter, cowboy. Is there no gay fantasy/stereotype you haven't tackled?

BH: HAHA!!! Actually I now own a construction company which is my main business. I guess I am all the Village People wrapped up in one!

GM: What do you find most and least attractive in a perspective love interest?

BH: I definitely appreciate someone who takes care of their body. I hate people who are self-obsessed.

GM: What do you find most and least attractive in yourself?

BH: Well, my body isn't too bad! I definitely think my abs are probably my best physical feature.





GM: What's the strangest groupie/fan/stalker story?

BH: The fans are all pretty awesome although I do get some weird emails. I had one guy who offered me three thousand dollars to fly to Virginia so he could wash my feet while I posed!

Another thing that was pretty freaky was when I was on the cover of Australian gay mag DNA. We had done the shoot and I was wearing this brief by Roberto Cavalli. Apparently the graphic on the front was of a Hindu goddess. There were people marching and holding protests all over Australia and North America and I was getting threats. It was completely an innocent mistake but I felt horrible that I offended so many people.

GM: What are your future dreams/aspirations?

BH: Well I am definitely focused heavily on my company at the moment so I haven't had a lot of spare

time although I am really interested in doing more fitness work and possibly getting a TV show. I was approached about one for the Here Network but it is definitely very much in the early stages.

Quickies:

Favorite music to work out to?

Country

Favorite food to pig out on?

Cheeseburgers

Favorite alcoholic beverage?

Tequila

Favorite automobile?

My truck

Favorite guilty pleasure?

Your magazine isn't that adult

First big purchase after your first big paycheck?

What do you think I make! All my big paychecks have gone to pay for school

Favorite place to holiday?

"To Holiday?!?" Dude, I live in a small town in the middle of Oregon. We don't "holiday"! I love to go to Mexico to party though!

Favorite sport?

Bronc Riding

Nickname?

Nope

Best pick up line?

Don't you know me from somewhere?



Olivia-Newton John

Tues Oct 8th 6:15P

Gaydar Magazine: Hello this is Steve.

Olivia Newton-John: Hi, Steve. This is Olivia Newton-John.

GM: Hello, Olivia Newton-John. (she giggles) First and foremost, I am supposed to tell you how absolutely fabulous Michael Caprio is. (MC is her agent and good friend. He set this interview up for Gaydar Magazine)

ONJ: (Laughs) I know he is.

GM: Second I should lay some background for you. I am a lifelong fan. I remember coming home from basketball practice and plopping into my beanbag chair and listening to your greatest hits until the needle wore through to the other side. In part, I credit your music with helping me accept my sexual orientation at an early age in a healthy manner.

ONJ: Well thank you. That is so sweet to hear.

GM: Enough about me. We're here to talk your 30 years in the entertainment business and what's new.

ONJ: Okay. Let's do it.

GM: I've never read who influenced you before you became a household name.

ONJ: Oh, well, Joan Baez, Dionne Warwick and others. My album Indigo was a tribute to those women. I learned many things from these women. I don't listen to much now because I don't want to be influenced by what others are doing. I don't want to copy anyone else's style. I need to be myself. What I do listen to is more new agey. I also listen to talk radio and written music. Music can be emotional.

GM: What are your favorite ONJ recording?

ONJ: Oh, wow. I love the old John Farrar songs, especially Suspended in Time (from Xanadu) and Falling. He is a great songwriter.

GM: I love those too. The country to pop to even big band feel of Whenever I'm Away from You. Can I take you back in time to ask about some of your duet partners?

ONJ: Oh my. Okay.

GM: Share your thoughts on recording with Andy Gibb (Rest Your Love on Me & I Can't Help it)

ONJ: Andy was such a sweet guy and his death was such a tragedy. He had such a distinctive voice and it allowed me to work with Barry Gibb as well.

GM: I saw a video clip on youtube.com the other day. You were sitting in a circle singing random songs with ABBA and Andy Gibb.

ONJ: Yes, I remember that. The director of my TV special had done a special with Elvis and said the best feedback was from a segment where Elvis sat and did some improv songs. So that's we did. I hadn't thought about that in so long. You just gave me a very happy memory. I would love to see that again.

GM: What about John Travolta (You're the One That I Want, Summer Nights, Take a Chance)?

ONJ: John is one of my favorite people. It was wonderful performing with him. And the reunion tour was such fun.

GM: Cliff Richard (Suddenly)?

ONJ: Cliff really got me started in TV and recording. I was a permanent fixture on his show in England before coming to the US.

GM: And, John Denver (Fly Away)?

ONJ: John Denver was a brilliant writer. I spent my first Thanksgiving in the US with he and Annie at their home. He was always concerned about the environment. He was very good to me.



In concert circa 1975

“ Marriage should be up to the individuals. And it should be all about love. Wherever you can find it, go for it. “

GM: Okay let's talk about the films. Your thoughts on Grease?

ONJ: Well, it's just amazing. Who could've guessed its longevity. It's still getting fans now.

GM: It had that resurgence in the 90's and has recently been repackaged in a black leather jacket which just debuted in the top ten. High School Musical certainly owes some of its success to the Grease formula. Xanadu?

ONJ: I think the dancing and fashion was way ahead of it's time. And the soundtrack had some great tunes.

With John Travolta in Grease



GM: I just interviewed Jason & DeMarco. When I asked their favorite songs of all time, Jason chose Xanadu. We hi-fived, because I love it too. The gays love you. What about Two of a Kind?

ONJ: John and I wanted to work together again. To the point that we didn't really look long enough at the script. Another good soundtrack though.

GM: I agree. I love Twist of Fate and Livin' in Desperate Times. Share some thoughts about the film It's My Party.

ONJ: Well, I had worked with Mark Randell on Grease. It's My Party was his own personal story. It allowed me my first dramatic role with a standard of actors that included Gregory Harrison, Eric Roberts, Margret Cho, Lee Grant and others. It's a moving and emotional story. I was grateful to be part of it.

GM: I remember seeing it and feeling thrilled that you were in it. What about Sordid Lives?

ONJ: Del Shure's Fun. I saw the play and suggested it be made into a movie and offered myself for a role. Later he called and asked me to do it. We did the whole movie in only a few days. I found it challenging to play that character. It played for a year in Palm Springs. We attended the Gays & Grays weekend and realized it had a cult following. It was a really fun thing to do.

GM: With your history in the recording and film industry, your Order of the British Empire, your Goodwill Ambassadorship, your Koala Blue product line, the environmental issues addressed by Planet Ark, and your new breast health products, what do you consider to be your proudest achievement?

ONJ: (without hesitation) My daughter.

GM: How is Chloe?

ONJ: She's great. She's a singer, too. In fact she has a cd coming out in the new year, to premiere on my space.

GM: We mentioned the new breast health products available exclusively at WalGreen's. What should gay men know about breast cancer?

ONJ: Everyone should know that, although not as prevalent, breast cancer does occur in men. So you should check yourself. Or, perhaps get a partner and check each other out. It could be fun. The Walgreen's product can be given to the women in their lives. Mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, girlfriends. The package comes with a supplement that will help keep women more healthy. Each song on the disc was written to help relax and heal. If you really want to relax and/or treat the woman in your life come to my Gaia Retreat in Australia. We call it the Barefoot Armani.

GM: Sounds holistically decadent! And I love the interludes between the songs on the new cd, *Grace & Gratitude*. In the liner notes you say that "life, with all it's ups and downs, is a gift of grace that I accept with gratitude." You suggest that we are all searching for peace, love and compassion. If that is so, how do you explain all the war and senseless death in the world?

ONJ: There have always been horrors in the world. We learn about them more rapidly now because of the constant media coverage and our immediate access to everything now. It's going to take time to heal. Where there is darkness, only put out light.

GM: I like that. You are embarking on a new tour. How do you prepare for going on the road?

ONJ: The usual. I do voice warm ups. I treat it like a marathon and take it day by day.

GM: Didn't you once suffer from stage fright?

ONJ: Yes, it was paralyzing. But, I conquered it. I used to be terrified of making mistakes. I had to come to realize it's human to make mistakes. I gave up on perfection.

GM: Compare the woman who recorded *Physical* to who you are now.

ONJ: Oh. I can't remember who I was then. Life's journey helps you mature. I've learned you can grow a beautiful lotus out of the surge. I was different then.

GM: The new cd, *Grace & Gratitude* is dedicated to Patrick. What do you want our readers to know about Patrick and how you've been coping since his disappearance?

ONJ: I would like your readers to know that I love him and always will. Patrick was a wonderful father. And (pause), yes, he was my best friend.

GM: Speaking of love. What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

ONJ: Marriage should be up to the individuals. And it should be all about love. Wherever you can find it, go for it.

GM: The song *Instrument of Peace* was inspired by the words of St Francis of Assisi and was written for the film, *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*. Are you in the film?

ONJ: I am in the movie. I had an instinct that I should call the director. It was a wonderful experience and he is a wonderful teacher. It will hopefully be released in 2007.

GM: We spoke of decadence a few minutes ago. What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

ONJ: Oh...eating chocolate. Anything chocolate.

GM: I am right there with you. I knew we were soul mates since I was 10 years old.

ONJ: Chocolate cake with chocolate ice cream. I prefer to think of it as fun, not guilty. Guilt makes it sound bad. We deserve to treat ourselves. Everything in moderation.

GM: Biggest vice?

ONJ: Oh, I can't share that. That's my secret. Let's just say chocolate again.

GM: Amen!

Randall Kleiser and John Travolta on the set of *Grease*



In concert circa 1982



Photo by Stephen Libby

In concert 2006



All photos courtesy of Michael Caprio (Unless otherwise noted) at capriomediadesign.com

Director J C Lee by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: Tell me about this production of Shakespeare's R&J.

JCLee: The play centers around 4 Catholic School Boys who decide to fuck around with a copy of William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. Basically they get caught up. They get excited. They get carried away to the point of breaking all of the social mores they've known thus far in life and by doing so, discover the inherent sex, violence and passion that has kept Shakespeare alive all these years (though, more often than not, he's treated like some sacred relic). At heart its an adaptation of the classic play, but in performance its so much more. I think that too often people think of Shakespeare and think of tights and British dialects and ornamentation. At the Omicron Theatre Project, one of our missions is to boil theatre down to its bare essentials, and this adaptation does that. At its core, Romeo & Juliet is a play about teen angst. It's an emo-play. It should be spelled Ro-emo. And I think that its that energy that is too often overlooked and played down, yet ironically, I think its that energy that is what's kept it one of his famous plays. This version plays to that strength, and I think it'll be quite a kick-ass production.

GM: Why did you choose the Lehigh Valley to debut R&J?

JC: I've only been in the Valley for about a year now, but I immediately recognized it as a place to do my art and as a welcoming home for the Omicron Theatre Project. I think the Lehigh Valley has a great community. It's complex. It's diverse. It's close to two of the world's most famous cities and yet it's strikingly rural. I think theatre is supposed to unify this kind of place. Give people a forum to meet and talk about all the different kinds of people here and see what connects us. That doesn't happen in movies, where we all hide in the corners and eat popcorn. The only place left that people can go and share stories with one another (besides church) is the theatre. I want it to be a place where young people can go on the weekends. I want it to represent the patchwork of different people all living in the Valley now. I want to feed into and give back to the mad-cap energy of the region. What better way to unite people than with a timeless story...though granted we've spiced it up a bit.

To contact J. C. Lee or bring Shakespeare's R&J to your theatre-www.geocities.com/omicrontheatreproject/



Cast of Shakespeare's R&J
performed at the Theatre Outlet

Comedian Mo Gaffney

by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: Where are you and what are you wearing?

Mo Gaffney: I'm wearing a two-tone fishing vest making a pot of spaghetti.

GM: (laughs) You're brilliant and have starred in some of my favorite TV shows and movies. Which do you prefer?

MG: You're sweet. It's hard to say. There's a lot to be recommended for both. I work for pay. I loved the AB Fab stuff.

GM: What's the most important topic you've covered in your political/ social commentaries with Kathy Najimy in the Kathy & Mo Show?

MG: Probably women's and gay issues. We've both been oppressed throughout history. We share a lot of the same problems and issues.

GM: How did you and Kathy meet?

MG: So long ago I don't know. (both laugh) It was in the early 40's, just before the war. (more laughter) Actually, it was in San Diego through mutual theatre friends. We both thought of each other, 'oh, my God, you're the funniest person I know. That same night I got a call from my mother saying that our house had burned down. I spent the night at Kathy's. We stayed up all night telling fire jokes. We're sick.

GM: Your thoughts on gay marriage?

MG: I actually married a gay couple and they are still together. I don't know why gays want to marry but, I think they should be allowed to be just as miserable as the rest of us.

GM: The Bush Administration?

MG: He doesn't represent me or the people I love. So many countries feel sorry for the US or don't like us because of this administration.

Hopefully we'll all be alive when they leave office.

GM: Global warming?

MG: It's definitely happening. I certainly believe the scientists and Al Gore. I think we just have a bunch of short-sighted people in charge right now.

GM: Our national obsession with celebrity?

MG: It's detrimental and a distraction. I don't care what they're wearing. No offense, but the media plays it up. I do understand people's need for the distraction.

GM: Ban on smoking in public places?

MG: Should offer both smoking and non-smoking.

Soon, it'll be like heroin; we won't be able to it in public.

GM: (laughs) Who would win in a celebrity smackdown, Mo or Kathy?

MG: She would win if she cheated, and she would cheat. In a fair fight, I could take her.

GM: What's next for Mo?

MG: A radio show with Jane Fonda, Rosie O'Donnell and others. It will focus on politics from a woman's point of view. It'll be informative and have some humor. I like it because I don't have to wear make-up or memorize a script. Hey, please mention my new cause...

GM: Okay...

MG: The Boy Scouts of America should not be allowed to disseminate materials in schools. Cuz now I have to explain to my 7-year old that the BS are prejudice against gays. It wouldn't be accepted if it were a group who discriminated against African-Americans. Come join the KKK.

GM: Thanks, Mo. We love you!



Mo with Kathy Najimy in the Kathy & Mo Show

Where You Can See Mo

TV

Mad About You
Absolutely Fabulous
Veronica's Closet
Rosanne
Tracey Takes On
Kathy and Mo Show HBO
The Louis Anderson Show
The Five Mrs. Buchanans

Film

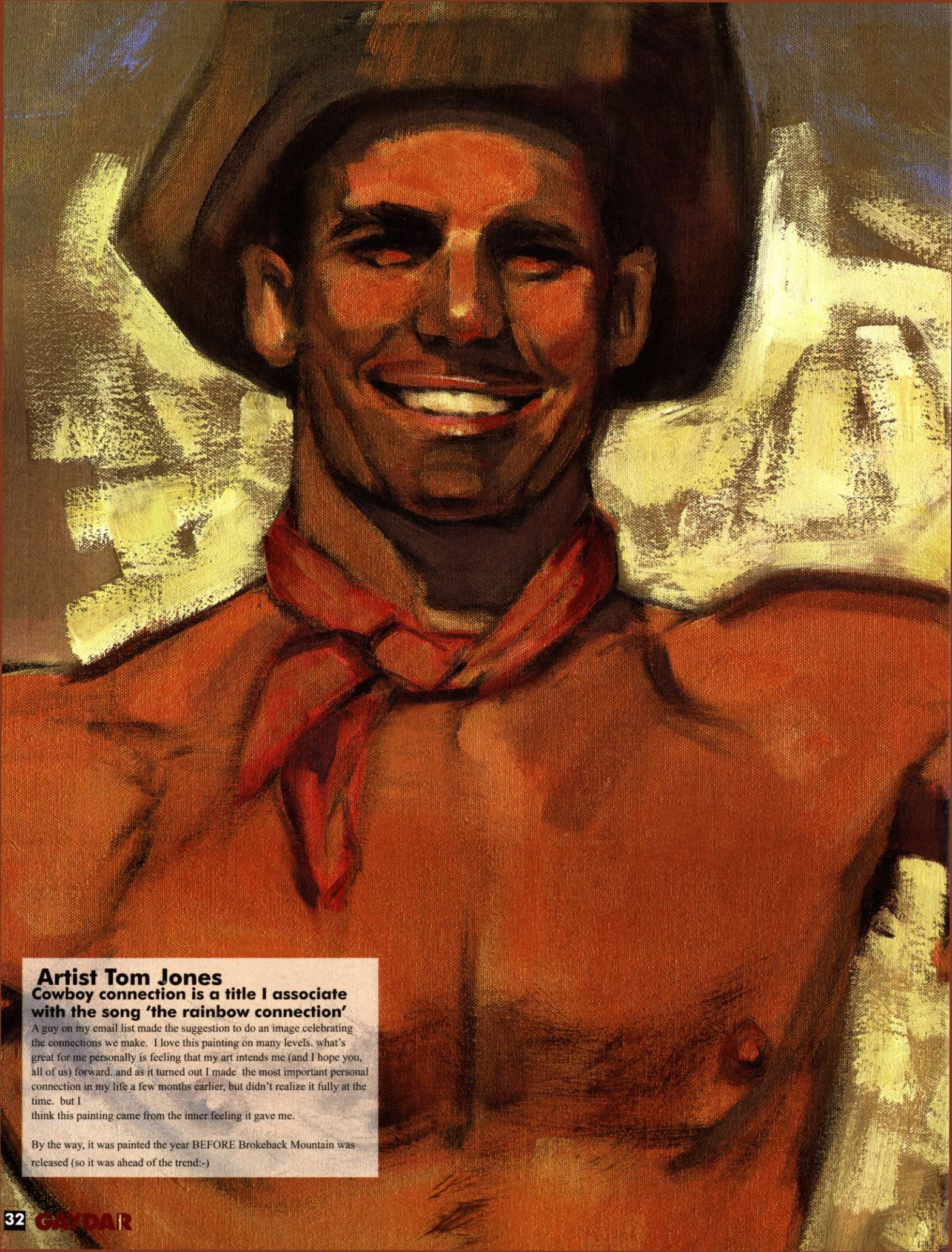
Happy, Texas
The Truman Show
Other People's Money
Drop Dead Gorgeous
The Out-Of-Towners
Jail Bait
Other People's Money
State of Grace



Artist Tom Jones

Artist Tom Jones high school wrestlers

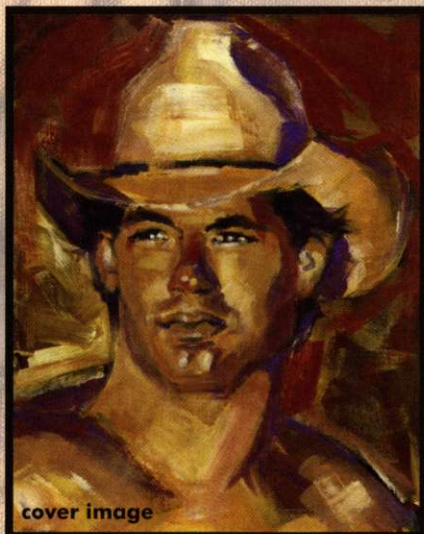
A hotshot spunky dude who's seriously into wrestling asked me about doing some paintings on a wrestling theme. Wrestling has always had a sexual attraction for me, since one thick hot summer night years back when hitchhiking Las Vegas' main drag a muscular trucker challenged me to a match in his motel room. From the look of him I figured I'd lose, but what the hell. It was a sweatsoaked introduction to this giveitwhatyougot approach to macho sex. It's hotly erotic for me, involving torso types from massive bodybuilders to of age high school athletes in dynamic action.



Artist Tom Jones
Cowboy connection is a title I associate with the song 'the rainbow connection'

A guy on my email list made the suggestion to do an image celebrating the connections we make. I love this painting on many levels. what's great for me personally is feeling that my art intends me (and I hope you, all of us) forward. and as it turned out I made the most important personal connection in my life a few months earlier, but didn't realize it fully at the time. but I think this painting came from the inner feeling it gave me.

By the way, it was painted the year BEFORE Brokeback Mountain was released (so it was ahead of the trend:-)



cover image

Being an artist, like being a cowboy, is not necessarily a path to happiness. it's been exactly that for me, but for my mentor, Harry Bush, it was just the opposite. I'm often asked about him, but there's not the space nor the time to get into that here, but if you're interested check out www.delftboys.com to see Harry's art and learn more.

Suffice it to say that his was a depressing scenario, and so opposed to those robust playful drawings he left behind for us to enjoy. but how could we enjoy them except thru the publishers he grew to hate. that he could not feel part of the family, forgive and forget, was his downfall. but there's no way to change this personal bent in someone. he seemed to enjoy mentoring me, and I said all the nice things I knew to say, and when he said he picked up the pencil for the first time in years to illustrate some points to help my development, I felt really good, like we would make each other's life more fun. but it bubbled up and then boiled down. and in the end I was just another thing he

closed off. and so in a way I've closed him off too. It's just so depressing to realize life can do that to anyone of us. or that we can and will do it to ourselves. if someone doesn't want your friendship, what can you do? I'd rather just look at the drawings and forget about the rest, maybe it's better not knowing about the artist himself, and just look at the art that "life" created, not having to realize that "life" also takes away.

It's getting too late to realize my youthful dream of looking fabulous in a coffin. but being a gay artist works for me! no complaints, except maybe I wish it was a bit more athletic an activity. but maybe it's best you don't waste time here reading more about me and take this opportunity to just view my art, being as Gaydar Magazine has been so kind as to introduce us.

Another day you'll find out as much as you want to know should you visit my site www.tomjonesmen.com.

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Interview with Dave McCormick and Dru Thomas

How did you meet?

It was in a Detroit Airport and it was love at first site. I was sent to Detroit from Manhattan on business. I was Dru's supervisor but we had never met. I saw him and was attracted to him immediately. I said dear God, don't let that be him. Because our work policy wouldn't allow us to date each other. So, we worked together for 3 years. I promoted him to the East Coast. We wanted to be together so we quit our jobs and went to hair school at Star Beauty Academy in 1991. While we were in school we started a wig business and did window design. We tried to work for other people, but then decided, six months out of school, to start American Hairlines. We had no money so we opened the shop in the commercial property we were living in and moved to the second floor. We bought all the fixtures, including chairs, sinks, plumbing and retail fixtures, from Orr's we they went out of business, for \$50. Since we do design, we rehabbed everything. In 1993 we opened our salon to a roaring crowd. It was an overnight success. Three months later we needed to hire our first stylist. Another three months and we had to hire a second. We outgrew that space and expanded upstairs. It was the first spa in the area. People thought we were crazy for offering massage at the time. People jokingly asked if they could get happy endings. Now every salon offers massage. In 1997 we moved American Hairlines into our old beauty school space. After seven years we needed more space so we moved again. This time, just a couple of blocks away. The current site offers an upscale gym and more of the spa treatment. We turned the old site into PopMart, which specializes in hard to find gifts, housewares, and designer clothing, as well as being a gallery for local and national artists. In 2004, we opened the Allentown site and sold it as a franchise. I wanted to wait two years before we sold any more franchises. That time is coming up and we've had offers from people in Eason and the Poconos. We're also moving ahead to open an American Hairlines in Chicago.

So how have these guys lived and worked together so successfully for 16 years?

We're soul mates. We knew it immediately and initially fought it because of the distance and working together. We disagree and make up. Just like any other couple, straight or gay. We would definitely take advantage of marriage when it is offered. We split our time between Bethlehem and Chelsea. We've contemplated moving but we love Bethlehem because of the proximity to NYC, the urban feel and all of our close friends. It's the people that keeps us here. And, our business is well received here. We like to travel, especially to Key West, Palm Springs and Europe. In our down time we do sketches for the upcoming season at the salon. We also enjoy landscaping and cooking. We're a couple. We're a family.





Jason & deMarco

by Steve Libby

Gaydar Magazine: How and where did you meet?

deMarco: We met at a restaurant in Los Feliz Village in Los Angeles through a mutual friend in 2001.

GM: how do you keep it fresh when you live and work together? **Jason:** Great sex! LOL

deMarco: We are total opposites. Where one is weak, the other is strong. I'm more grounded and Jason is more dreamy. We balance each other. It honestly surprises me that we still feel in love, considering we're together 24/7. I was a very independent person when Jason and I met. I never thought I would have been able to handle this type of life, but I love every minute of it. And when I don't, I am reminded of how many guys in our community aspire to having the kind of relationship that Jason and I have.

Jason: We are always facing something different on every new day. It's not like we go to work everyday to the same job and come home to each other and have a routine. Every day something different comes our way, so we are always facing new things, ideas, opportunities, etc. It keeps things constantly on the move, including us. We keep changing within all of these happenings, personally and spiritually. Just when I think I have deMarco figured out he does something that totally surprises me. It keeps it exciting and never boring.

deMarco: Our life is definitely never boring. I think the most important thing is that we have fun. We make each other laugh. We also realized a long time ago that as long as we have each other, there is nothing that we wouldn't be able to face and overcome.

GM: How has the fame of the new disc and exposure on logo and in all the gay magazines changed your lives?

Jason: We definitely feel this new album has taken us to new places musically and artistically. We've reached an entire new audience with the album, and particularly with the first single of the album, "Trying to Get to You" which we released as a remix single remixed by DJ Tracy Young. It hit the Billboard Charts in its second week of being released. The second single we released was "This is Love" which has been in the Top 5 most requested videos for the past 4 months, of which it remained in the #1 position for 7 consecutive weeks until Madonna knocked us out!

deMarco: We have been really amazed at the reception we've received from the music video on logo. We call the video 'the little video that could' because we originally intended it to be a cute art video and we had no idea it would reach as many people as it has. Countless people have emailed sharing that we have broken down a barrier by being the first openly gay couple to sing a love song to one another, and to make a video of us doing so! That's an amazing thought for us! What's even more amazing is that the video is simply us being 'us'. We've seen the hunger in the gay community to simply be able to be authentic and let the world see that our love as gay couples is no different than theirs. Love is love - and "This is Love".

Jason: I don't think the publicity has changed our lives per se. The gay press has been extremely friendly with us and we feel they have a respect for who we are and what we stand for. I think we've realized that we are still the same two people we've always been. We haven't changed through all of this, but people's perception of us sometimes has. People begin looking at you as a celebrity or as 'unreachable'. We still make it a goal to answer our emails personally, and to really take time to connect with our fans when we have concerts. Meeting new people and hearing their stories is the best part of what we do. It reminds us of why we are out there doing what we do as well.

GM: Your advice for others who want to break into

the business?

Unfortunately, the days of major record deals are in decline. In a highly competitive music marketplace the major labels have been forced to only sign acts that are already established and who have sold tens of thousands of CDs on their own. GLBT artists are an even higher-risk investment for labels as mainstream America still is homophobic when it comes to openly gay artists. Essentially the days of major labels finding raw talent and grooming them, otherwise known as "artist development", are over.

Add to this the digital revolution of the music marketplace which has caused major retailers to close their doors for good, getting a 'record deal' seems more of a fantasy than a probability for most aspiring artists. The good news for artists is that never before has it been so possible for an artist to make it as an independent artist. In the olden days, singers were completely dependant on their record label. An artist might be a one-hit wonder and hope to live off the royalties that their hit song generated, even after being dropped by their label. Today many artists' careers are able to operate independently, outside of the traditional record deal. Never before has a recording artist been able to be so pro-active about their career, from producing and recording their own music, to manufacturing their own CDs, networking, self-distributing their music digitally and physically on-line, setting up their own tours, marketing themselves, etc. This is the time of the 'Working Class Artist'.

The company that represents us, RJN MUSIC, is expanding its roster and taking other artists to represent, so if anyone is interested in reading more information, you can visit www.rjnmusic.com.

GM: What's next for Jason & deMarco?

deMarco: We're releasing a CD/DVD double-disc digipack of "This is Love". One cd is a single with several remixes of "This is Love" including a bonus track, and the other disc is a DVD of the music video with "The Making Of" footage and an interview with Jason and I. It is going to be released on Valentine's Day!

Jason: Career wise, I imagine we'll be touring less, but in bigger venues, raising a family, and playing life full, as always. Our primary future goal is to hopefully start touring with another headline artist in the music industry. This will allow us to get our names 'out there' and introduce us and our music to a new audience. Our schedule has been pretty crazy over the past four years touring, so my hope is that we can do short term tours - and then take some time off to enjoy each other as 'boyfriends' and begin a family. We also have visions of working to develop a Center for Youth who have been abandoned and rejected because of their sexuality. As we travel, we are finding many who want to be a part of this dream, and it becomes more obvious with every city that we visit that something like this is necessary. So many of our youth have no where to turn. We want to use our music as a tool to raise awareness of many of these issues, and create solutions. The music is great, but there's a much bigger purpose to everything we are doing.

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Veronica Mosey

Gaydar Magazine: At what time did you get interested in doing stand-up comedy?

Veronica Mosey: Ever since I was a kid I've loved making people laugh. It's part of who I am. I have a pretty skewed view of the world and feel this need to share these sick thoughts with the rest of the world. It's bizarre, actually.

GM: What are some of the influences/inspirations for your routine?

VM: I like to write about things that really make me angry and frustrated. Things that can connect everyone in the room. Who doesn't look with disgust at the mothers who wear t-shirts that say "Hottie" while pushing their strollers down the street? Who hasn't had someone completely ignore them when they've said hello and wanted to punch them in the face? Who hasn't been forced to listen to some loud-mouth's stupid conversation they have to shout over their cellphone? I love it!!! And I love making fun of my parents because they're logic is completely insane. My dad actually gets jealous because I make more jokes about my mom. I'm sorry, did I mention the insane thing?

GM: Have you ever received any interesting backlash due to your comic material?

VM: I wouldn't say interesting as much as annoying. When I was writing for US Weekly Magazine's Fashion Police segment, I made fun of Mariah Carey for wearing this horrid black and white plaid silk gown. I called her a "perfect example of a tart-in plaid" playing on the word Tartan. A website dedicated to Ms. Carey said that I wasn't funny at all. They're right. I'm not funny. And Mariah NEVER dresses like a Jersey-shore shot girl whore. (Can I say that here?)

My dad
actually gets
jealous
because I make
more jokes
about my mom.

GM: When at DeSales, I remember you singing karaoke at the Stonewall in Allentown.

Do you believe you might have a GLBT following now?

VM: Absolutely. I find gay audiences to be the most tolerant of racey and very honest material. They are very open. And, damn, they're all so friggin' hot!

What is it with gays and hotness? It's unbelievable.....I'm sorry.....Can we put the air conditioning on? And, no, I won't hold your feet while you do crunches.

GM: (This issue of Gaydar magazine is a holiday edition). Do you have any crazy holiday memories you would like to share?

VM: When I was about ten years-old I had asked for my very own red-headed cabbage patch doll for Christmas. The big day came and I got it! Christmas Eve finally ended and we all headed upstairs to bed. All the lights were out downstairs and I was holding my doll as I climbed upstairs to my bedroom. When I got to the very top, I must have squeezed a little too tight because her head fell off and bounced down the stairs into the darkness of the hallway below. There is nothing more scary or satanic looking than a beheaded cabbage patch face staring at you, turning over and over, and finally landing in the depths of hell. I couldn't go down and get her head because the lightswitch was at the base of the stairs and every 10 year-old knows there are monsters all over the place. So I just screamed "Daddy! Help!" and he saved the day by trudging down into hell to get my doll's head. He then shoved her head into her limp body, turned the head around a few times to make sure it was on tight and said the words "There. Good as new" as he handed her back to me. I think I put her back in the box that night. Not to keep her safe from falling down the stairs again but because I was afraid she'd attack me. Scary Christmas everybody.....

GM: Okay, one more question. What are your future plans in your career?

When can we see your next stand-up gig?

VM: I am trying to write more. It's easy to get lazy and rely on the same old reliable jokes to get you through your sets. It's more of a challenge to put something new out there that you're not sure of. That's a lot more terrifying but I'm trying to get more comfortable with that. I am always playing in New York - mostly at the Comic Strip and Comedy Cellar and my Comedy Central appearance on Live at Gotham will be re-airing in the fall so check it out. Also, anytime you want to see what I'm up to just take a look at my website www.veronicamosey.com

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Dance Insider

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The company's physical and artistic sensibilities have never been stronger or sharper." Salt Lake Tribune

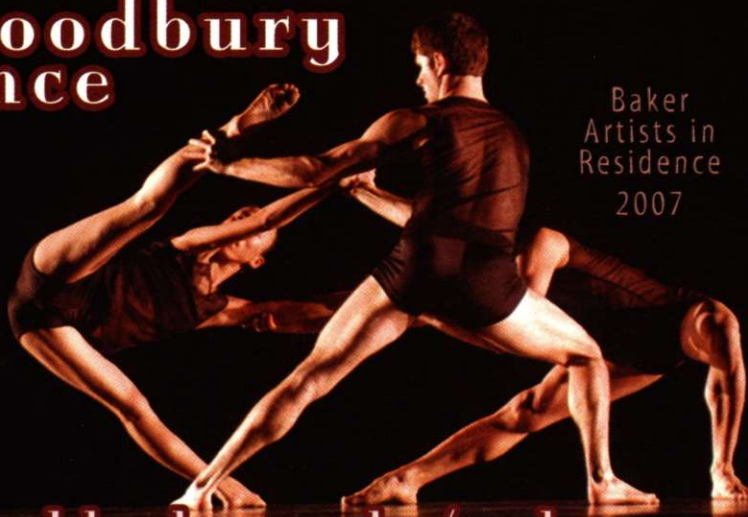
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Our Story:

Reunited (and it feels so good)

By Gabriel De Silva



The first time I ever made out with Tim was on a parked tractor in the middle of the night sometime during the summer of '02. We'd been drinking at a local gay college party in Poughkeepsie, NY and ended up back at his apartment, where we bonded

over a joint and our shared love of the Dave Matthews Band (don't judge me - I can see your Ashlee Simpson poster from here). At Tim's suggestion, he and I went out into the backyard to check out the stars.

Nearly every suggestive element was in place that night: the air was filled with soft, warm breezes, stars burned brightly in the clear night sky, and the crickets contributed their percussive chirping in surround sound - the only thing missing was a singing lobster. Instead, a big yellow tractor sat in the middle of the muddy acre; we leaned against it as we pointed at the flickering stars and talked about constellations. Tim and I babbled on about Orion's belt and the Little Dipper, but all the while there was a whole 'nother conversation going on between our two sets of eyes, who flickered knowing innuendo at each other in between glances up at the sky. After what seemed like forever (but that could've just been the pot), I couldn't stand the sexual tension any more; I reached out and pulled him to me. The kiss that followed was straight out of a movie, and with the tractor in the background, this movie might even have been of the Falcon variety. Our lips collided forcefully as if drawn together by powerful magnets, which were slowly pulled apart and then released only to crash into each other once again.

The winter before, we'd worked together at a nightclub in Highland; he was a bartender and I was the doorman. We traveled in some of the same circles and flirted occasionally, but hadn't really gotten the chance to talk one on one until that night by the tractor, where we made out like teenagers for what could've been hours before abandoning the backyard in favor of Tim's room indoors. Once there, he easily tossed me onto the bed (I was just a twee liddle thing back then, a buck-forty if a pound) and relieved me of my baggy Kikwears. I stripped him down to his American Eagle boxer shorts, undid the flap and threw my right hand in there as a magician would to a top hat. What emerged was nothing short of magical. That fateful night was also host to the Greatest Sex I Ever Had, Ever. I was 20. He was Italian. Okay, Irish too, and a couple of other things, but you know what I mean.

Late into the wee hours, Tim and I shared an intense lovemaking experience that I would never forget, but having mind-blowing sex doesn't necessarily mean the rules of hook-ups don't apply, natch. The next morning, amidst two killer hangovers and the awkwardness of youth, well, it just got really weird. I put my clothes back on, Tim and I exchanged grunts and I left. That night, I didn't call him, and he didn't call me. The following night was the same, as was the night after that, and the following night after that. A week nearly went by before he finally called, and when he did, I was just too stubborn and full of myself to return the gesture.

After that, a couple months had passed when - horror of horrors - Tim started dating my ex, Max, who for me had been the kind of boyfriend who would move in without paying rent, never offer to cook or clean, steal cash to buy cigarettes, suddenly disappear for a week, and then

bring strange raver-boys into the house to ruin all the tablespoons cooking up heroin. I was mortified by this turn of events, and realized that I really did like Tim and he was way too good for Max and he should have been with me anyway and how could I have been so fucking stupid? I phoned Tim a handful of times and when I saw him out tried to talk him out of his commitment. Having screwed it up by not calling him when I had the chance, I was powerless to keep him out of the clutches of The Ex, and they ended up dating for two more years before Tim could extricate himself. By then, I had plotted my move to Philadelphia, and despite our conciliatory phone calls, we never got to hang out again before I left New York State.

A year into my stay in Philly, Tim was still on my mind. I never stopped wondering: what if I hadn't been such a stupid? Would we have been together? Would we have stayed together? One day, I saw a friend of his on instant messenger and asked after Tim's screen-name. After a few spirited internet convos, I had Tim's phone number and I called him up. He'd since moved to Seattle to start anew with some mutual friends from NY. We caught up a little bit, but we're both no good on the phone. Our conversations were brief and far between. Living so far away from each other on separate coasts I didn't know if I'd ever see Tim again.

That was, until I experienced my own little Christmas miracle this past December.

I was back in upstate NY for winter break, and Tim was in the area to see his dad. We made plans to grab a drink a couple nights before Christmas. I was nervous as hell to see him. It had been awhile since our last encounter. We agreed to meet at Griff's, a new bar near Vassar College. I knew once I got there that it was a gay bar, on account of there was no beer on tap. I grabbed a rum and coke and did a lap around the bar, looking for Tim. He was parked in a far corner with a few other old friends I hadn't seen in ages, and he was looking real good in a snug white thermal. When he saw me approaching he smiled and crossed the smallish room to greet me.

"You look good", he remarked before engulfing me in a strong-armed bear hug. He was still in the solid shape I remembered, lean but muscular. I squeezed him back. "You look good too." I smiled sheepishly as we parted, feeling warmth spread out from the pit of my stomach even though I hadn't touched my cocktail yet. The old chemistry was still there, as strong as I remembered it. Before long, we had put back a couple drinks and absconded to a darkened hallway, where I pulled him to me again to lock lips as fireworks went off in my head. I kissed him like a starving man would devour a cheeseburger, and only came up for air when I was sure I'd pass out otherwise. We parted, dazed, panting and grinning at each other like two mischievous kids.

Three A.M. on Christmas Eve Day found us trading hummers in a friend's parent's basement's bathroom, also much like two mischievous kids, albeit two full-grown kids who were totally gay for each other. Afterwards, as we retrieved our clothes from the bathroom floor, Tim suggested that I visit him in Seattle for Spring Break. Within a couple weeks, I had booked my flight.

No sooner had I let Tim know I was coming that panic started setting in. Granted, Tim and I had an amazing connection of sorts, but we'd never even gone on a proper date, now I was going to travel clear across the country to spend four days and five nights with him? It was a crazy idea. I looked ruefully down at my little belly. Until fairly recently I'd kept in shape by riding my beloved olive-green three-speed all over Philly, but the durned bike pooped out on me in early January and I had since put on a couple pounds. I resolved to do ten pushups and ten sit-ups every day until I left for Seattle. In the five weeks that followed, I somehow managed to accomplish zero of those exercises, which in itself is a pretty impressive feat. All or nothing, that's me.

As the big vacation approached, my little Buddha-belly was the least of my worries. I also felt insecurities about what would go on in the bedroom.

Unlike some of my homo brethren, I've never really come into my own as far as backdoor loving is concerned. Going by what I fantasize about, I know I'm a bottom, although nearly every time I find someone I respect enough to let him stick it in - boy howdy! - that shit hurts! It looks much easier in the movies, but I guess that's why those guys are sucking and fucking their way to the big bucks while I'm sitting in my room punishing the bishop. In any case, our first night together all those years ago, I had to make Tim stop mid-coitus because - boy howdy! - that shit hurt! I always felt bad that I couldn't give it up to Tim all the way through, and this time around I wanted it to be different. I contemplated purchasing a dildo to, er, rehearse with, but I just couldn't bring myself to do it. Maybe it was my Catholic upbringing creeping in, or maybe my internalized homophobia prevented me from internalizing a synthetic phallus. Or maybe I was too much of a puss to just bite the bullet and buy the damn thing. Oh well. In the end I decided to wing it.

A while back, I got escorted offstage during an open-mic night at Philadelphia's Laff House for making vulgar jokes about guys who got their ass-cracks waxed, "as if there was something pretty underneath." Now, I wondered if maybe there was something pretty back there, and if there was, could I uncover it? Not that I'm a super-hairy dude, but I have it where it grows (I am a Latino, after all). Above the waist, I only have a few stray follicles here and there, but my lower half is a different story altogether. I'd liken myself to The Chronicles of Narnia's Mr. Tumnus the Faun, except without the red scarf or the cloven hooves.

My waxworks dreams were short-lived; none of the day spas I phoned in Philly would perform a "men's bikini" or a "lower-lower-lower back wax". On the upside, I did provide a few receptionists quite a laugh. In the end I just took some clippers to my foliage and did some landscaping.

As if my new awareness of my heretofore-underused sexual orifice wasn't stressful enough, I let things get more complicated when Tim and I spoke on the phone a couple weeks before the trip. I mentioned to him that I had recently visited Camden's Adventure Aquarium, and he told me he had gone to an aquarium in Seattle the month before, with an ex-boyfriend of his who was in town at the time.

What? With who?

Jealousy and anger got the best of me, and I sarcastically spit out, "Wow, so how many exes come to visit you anyway?"

Tim hung up. I freaked. Had I screwed the whole thing up before even setting foot on the West Coast? I burst into my roommate Greg's room and told him what happened. He dryly put things into perspective for me, reminding me that I had no right to be possessive of a guy who lived 3,000 miles away. The worst thing I could do to this trip, he told me, would be to pull some jealous bullshit. It was a lesson I'd later be glad to have learned. I phoned Tim back and we smoothed things over. I was committed to making the best of our brief time together. Finally, the big day arrived. On Thursday, March 2nd, armed with a suitcase full of my best clothes and my nicest boxer shorts, I made the eight-hour trek across state lines (gaining three hours in the process). At the airport in Seattle, Tim waited for me by the baggage check in a dark grey pin-striped blazer over a crew-neck sweater, faded jeans, and a pair of black and red Adidas sneakers. His long-ish dark brown hair fell across his forehead in indie-rocker waves, curling above his ears and at the nape of his neck; he grinned broadly as he stretched out his arms to give me another big old bear hug. Searching his clear blue eyes, I could see that he was genuinely glad to see me, and for the first time since I'd shelled out six bucks for an Amstel Light during my stopover at Chicago's O'Hara Airport, I relaxed.



Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud

by Author Shaun Considine

Author Shaun Considine by Gary Gaugler, Jr.

Gaydar Magazine: What is it about these two (Joan Crawford & Bette Davis) that seem to attract gay men to them?

Shaun Considine: Each had glamour and style. They also had spirit, charisma, and balls. Both were strong, complex, independent women, who were attracted to men, attractive men, who when pushed, could give them a hard time, on screen and off. Joan especially liked sex ("And it likes me", she said). Bette was the more romantic. But neither one could be dominated, or easily dismissed. Especially when they reached the "kiss of death" stage for actresses in Hollywood. Age forty. "Fuck off", they both said. "I'm a star. I still have talent. And, I'm going to continue to work".

GM: They both criticized younger actors/actresses as they aged. What do you think makes movie stars of this generation different than actors/actresses of the golden age?

SC: The current Hollywood generation, with a few exceptions, all look and sound the same. Stars of the golden age - Davis, Crawford, Hepburn, Gable, Stanwyck, Gary Cooper, Jimmy Stewart et al, had different personalities and distinct voices. Joining them in the 1950s were Ava Gardner, Liz Taylor, Marlon Brando, Rock Hudson, Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly, each with their own unique style and appeal. Today the roster of defined stars is slim. The only females

who come close to the career longevity of Davis and Crawford are Meryl Streep, Diane Keaton and Jessica Lange; with Julia Roberts, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nicole Kidman and the current "overnight" star, Helen Mirren, in the main court. The next tier, unfortunately, due to the ravenous tabloid culture and ubiquitous red-carpet over-exposure, could find it much more difficult to acquire and retain that other vital ingredient for durable stardom - Mystique.

GM: With all the sources cited, how long did it take to research and write The Divine Feud?

SC: On and off the research took many years. But once I decided there was an actual book there, and the contract with the publisher was signed, the bulk of the interviews were completed in eight months. By that time, the material had become so rich that the book essentially wrote itself.

GM: What personally drew you to, not just the feud, but to the lives of these two legends?

SC: The feud was like a good detective story. Previously, like millions of others, I didn't believe it existed, because Davis and Crawford were big "movie stars" above such common emotions as jealousy and competitiveness. Then by chance, in the early 1970s, I got caught in their verbal crossfire. When the smoke cleared I realized that something wicked and intriguing had occurred between them, and whatever it was it continued to stalk them. My job, ultimately, was to find out what that was.

GM: What has been your greatest writing challenge to date? Why?

SC: Bette and Joan was a huge challenge. Much of what transpired between them, during the 1940s especially, had been carefully concealed, because the Hollywood studios back then had enormous power. Stars led picture perfect lives, that was the message conveyed by the mammoth publicity machines. Later, thankfully, many of those same studio craftspeople - the publicists, producers, directors, cinematographers, makeup men and hairdressers, were still alive, and I was able to track them down and talk to them for the book. With their help the real story of the conflict came alive. But what was underneath and kept driving it, remained a mystery. Until I decided I had to go further back and then add a biographical vein

to the book. That was difficult - to take the lives of two contrasting women and mesh them together, without boring the hell out of readers with exposition and information they might already know. But objectivity helped. Having grown up in Ireland during the 1950s, I hadn't seen most of Davis and Crawford's films. Nor did I know much about their personal lives. So I was able to look at both with an objective eye, and without favoritism.

That said, "the greatest writing challenge to date" was the book that followed - Mad As Hell - The Life and Work of Paddy Chayefsky. He wrote and co-produced three Oscar winners - Marty, The Hospital and Network. Plus The Catered Affair (starring Bette Davis), The Goddess (based on Marilyn Monroe), and The Americanization of Emily. I knew Paddy slightly and admired his work greatly. He was a colorful, very funny, highly articulate New York character. And I thought it would be a breeze to write about his work and life. But it wasn't. Unlike Crawford and Davis, Chayefsky was a writer who was extremely guarded about his private life. With good reason. Because, even though his colleagues confirmed that his most famous characters - Marty, the benign homely bachelor, and Howard Beale, the crazed anchorman in Network, were based on Paddy, there was a deeper duality, a Jekyll and Hyde aspect to his life, that no one was aware of. Uncovering that (with the help of his family and friends), and living with it day to day (as serious biographers are wont to do), almost, as the Brits say, "done me in".

"When smoked cleared, I realized that something wicked and intriguing had occurred between them"

GM: What were the incentives to switch career paths from basic journalism to biographer of the stars?

SC: More creative freedom, and more money, which enabled me to work on other projects, such as the Chayefsky book, and my other passion - photography.

GM: Often the stars seemed to be living to the point of having scathing memoirs written about them by they're daughters. So many similarities might draw others closer. What do you think, besides career jealousy, kept them bitter enemies?

SC: Pride and ego. Bette and Joan were both Aries women, reportedly born in the same year. Though, Davis said of Crawford "She's five years older than me if she's day". Carroll Righter, "Astrologer to the Stars" described it best. "Bright, ambitious, forceful, impatient, extravagant, self-centered, generous, and stubborn, when one Aries challenges another Aries, they become two battering Rams whose horns are locked".

GM: Are there any lessons you took from studying these two for so long, that you've applied to your personal/professional life?

SC: Never to get too close or to be sucked into the Hollywood star system. Or, to allow my own professional ego to intrude too much into my personal life.

GM: Who would be victorious in a celebrity smackdown: Bette Davis or Joan Crawford? Why?

SC: Joan Crawford; in a public contest. Like Madonna today, Joan was the champ when it came to publicity and self promotion. She was also a virtuoso when it came to upstaging. She knew how to use her glamour, charm and seductiveness. Privately, Davis would be the victor. Because, intellectually she was smarter. She also had an indestructible belief in herself and in her talent, which, career-wise, gave her the longer run.

Favorites:

1) Crawford movie: Mildred Pierce

2) Davis movie: All About Eve

3) Baby Jane moment:

Two. The now famous: "But cha-are, Blanche. You are

in that chair!" And, the final scene between them at the beach - when Jane discovers the truth - "You mean after all these years we could have been friends?"

4) Comeback movie: Mildred Pierce or All About Eve.

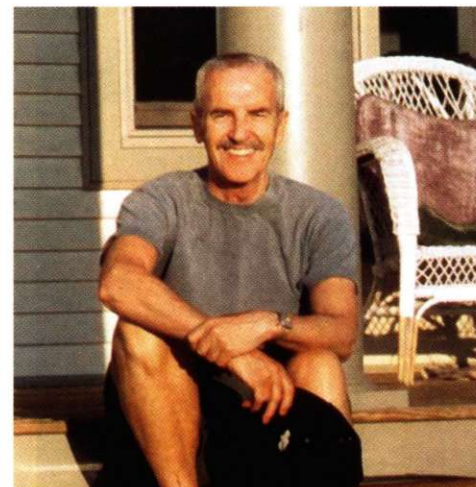
All About Eve - because of the literate, sparkling script, and the supporting cast - Thelma Ritter, George Sanders, Celeste Holm (though Ann Blyth and Eve Arden weren't small change in Mildred Pierce).

5) Actress: Crawford or Davis - Going into the project I favored Bette Davis. Midway I began to realize that as an actress Crawford was vastly underappreciated. In Grand Hotel, as "the little stenographer", she lifted the spirit of the film and held her own against the Barrymores and Garbo. When Mildred Pierce came along, she was primed and ready for it, and I believe no other actress at Warners, including Davis and Stanwyck, could have played it so convincingly and economically. Likewise Humoresque and The Best of Everything, she brought a seductive edge and brittle gloss that made the characters and her scenes indelible. That said, Bette Davis had the greater range and took larger, incredible risks. "I was the actress, and Joan was always "the movie star", she said in our last conversation, finally acknowledging that it might have been that combination, and not her solo bravura performance, that made What Ever Happened to Baby Jane work and hold up so well.

Shaun adds- That period - the 1970s - when I became a journalist and first got involved with Bette and Joan - is the subject of my next book. I kept a journal and took

photos (see site shaunconsidine.com) throughout that entire crazy star-crossed period. Title of book, courtesy of Paul Newman, is...

"Who Do I Have to F--k to get out of this Picture?"



Shaun Considine in Vermont.
photo credit: Bill Dittfort

Quickies with Shaun Considine

GM: Where do you currently reside?

SC: New York, though currently I am in North Carolina.

GM: Aside from writing, what are some of your favorite hobbies?

SC: Cycling, running, photography and my friends, older and younger.

GM: What authors inspire you?

SC: I was inspired by the writers of the New Journalism movement of the 1960s - Tom Wolfe, Gay Talese, Joan Didion and Jimmy Breslin.

GM: You mentioned astrology in the interview and in the book. What sign are you and how accurately does your personality fit your sign?

SC: I'm a Sagittarian - and seem to fit sign perfectly - frank, open, optimistic and the negative traits also. Most compatible sign - Aries (Bette and Joan).

Gary Gaugler's Book Report

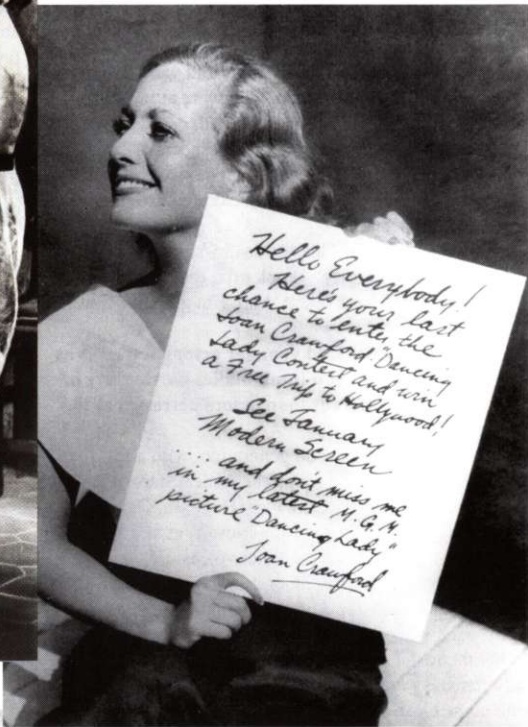
Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud by Shaun Considine

E. P. Dutton
New York

"At last I've found the perfect film script for us to do together. I have always wanted to work with you," Joan Crawford told Bette Davis in 1955. "I looked at her," said Bette, "and I thought this woman is full of shit."

Thus began one of Hollywood's greatest feuds. In "Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud," author Shaun Considine delves into the personal and professional lives of two of the silver screens biggest starlets.

The book flips back and forth between the life of Bette and the life of Joan with a culmination of the film they worked on together, "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane." Considine's biographies show interestingly enough that the lives of the rivals were curiously similar. They were both desperate to make names for themselves and obsessed with keeping their own stardom above everyone else's. They both had multiple marriages and divorces, high and low points in their careers, and scathing biographies written about their parenting by their



own daughters. In spite of the similarities, the two Aries attacked each other like two rams gnashing their horns together. During interviews they would critique the others acting or personal life. This all occurred during a time when personal grudges were swept under the carpet and out of the public eye.

So, when a script about two sisters who hate each other was released, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford were immediately in demand for the rolls. And the feud only intensified during the making of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane." During a sequence when Bette was

supposed to be pretending to kick Joan, she gashed her head by kicking it repeatedly. In retaliation, when Bette was required to carry Joan's unconscious body across the room, Joan tied lead weights under her dress and threw out Bette's back. The feud continued until Joan's death in 1977 although Bette would still throw out the occasional barb during an interview at her deceased nemesis.

Considine eloquently details both of the actresses histories so well that by the end you could almost swear they're old friends of yours. He accurately portrays them as they were, glamorous, self-loving, and ridiculously over-dramatic making for an interesting and often times comical, fun read.



Gaydar Magazine's Best of 2006

1. The Nov '06 Democratic Wins.

Dear Dubya, We're taking the House and the Senate. You can keep Cheney, Rice et al. The message we're sending is that you're a freakin out of touch, egotistical, megalomaniacal, jackass and will probably be remembered as one of the worst presidents in the history of the universe. Now, let's hope the Dems have the cojones to make some change. And I don't mean 4 quarters for a dollar.

2. Meryl Streep. She (with Lily Tomlin) was the best thing about Prairie Home Companion (an otherwise over-hyped borefest). But, it was her turn in The Devil Wears Prada that will probably nab for her a 2 bazillionth Academy Award nomination.

3. The Queen. Unfortunately, scenery-chewing Streep must face off against Helen Mirren in her mesmerizing portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II during the death of Princess Diana. You can just give her the trophy now, boys.

4. New Jersey recognizes discrimination against gays. Imagine what they could see were the air quality better. Just kidding, we're very fortunate to live right next door to NJ. And, I'm pretty sure that's the only time those words have been uttered. How about civil marriage? Or, wedded unions? Or, until divorce? So, we just need to get Ed Rendell to have an affair with a male assistant and then pressure him to resign. If logic follows, in two years we'll be sitting pretty.

5. New James Bond, Daniel Craig. I don't know about you, but I think there was way too much material in that swimsuit. This is the first time that 007 was also the Bond babe!

6. The Scissor Sisters. Ok, the chick is straight but claims to have a drag queen's soul. The rest of this over talented, underrated band is gayer than a Judy Garland Fan Club meeting hosted by Elton John, with charter members Richard Simmons, Charles Nelson Reilly and Paul Lynde in attendance.

7. Gay Boys Coming Out. Lance Bass. T.R. Knight. Neil Patrick Harris. We're here! We're queer! Yawn! I wish it didn't matter, but it does. Every time someone comes out, an angel earns its wings. Or, some such nonsense. Thanks guys. Tom Cruise? Jodie Foster?

8. Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania Diversity Network, F.A.C.T., AIDS Outreach, PFLAG, PA-GALA, HAVEN, The Theatre Outlet, The Civic Theatre, GLOSS, Metropolitan Community Church, Valley Gay Press and Gaydar Magazine. There's an estimated 70,000 GLBT people in the Lehigh Valley. Step away from the television and get involved.

9. Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Evans, Channing Tatum, Bradey Quinn, Taye Diggs and Wentworth Miller. For no other reason than I just like to think about them and type their names. It just takes longer cause I can only use one hand.

10. An Inconvenient Truth. Could be the title for the current Bush Administration.

Instead it made (my president) Al Gore a movie star and became the third highest grossing documentary in history. Full of self-confidence, charm and humor. Where was this guy 6 years ago?

Honorable Mention: Borat. If you like hi-brow, thought-provoking comedy from a knowledgeable and professional, well spoken reporter with the reputation of a Cronkite or Jennings...this is not your movie. But, you will howl with laughter and probably cry tears of joy at this hilarious parody? Satire? Spoof? You decide. Just go see what all the fuss and lawsuits are about. Happy New Year!

Top Tens for 2006

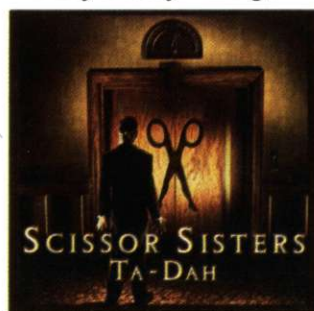
Celluloid

1. Borat
2. The Queen
3. An Inconvenient Truth
4. The Devil Wears Prada
5. Casino Royale
6. Flushed Away
7. Shut Up & Sing
8. X-Men: The Last Stand
9. Volver
10. Half Nelson



Toones

1. Ta-Dah!-Scissor Sisters
2. "Next to You"-Buck Cherry
3. "Sexy Back"-Justin Timberlake
4. Shine On-Jet
5. "Move Along"-All American Rejects
6. "Irreplaceable"-Beyonce
7. The Black Parade-My Chemical Romance
8. Whatever They Say I Am, That's What I'm Not-The Arctic Monkeys
9. "Here it Goes Again"-Ok Go
10. "If You Were Wondering"-Dirty Pretty Things



Idiot Box

1. Ugly Betty
2. Footballers Wives
3. Melrose Place on DVD
4. Heroes
5. My Name is Earl/The Office
6. Dick Cavett Interviews
7. Real Time with Bill Maher
8. Desperate Housewives
9. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart
10. Reruns of Match Game



Eye Candy

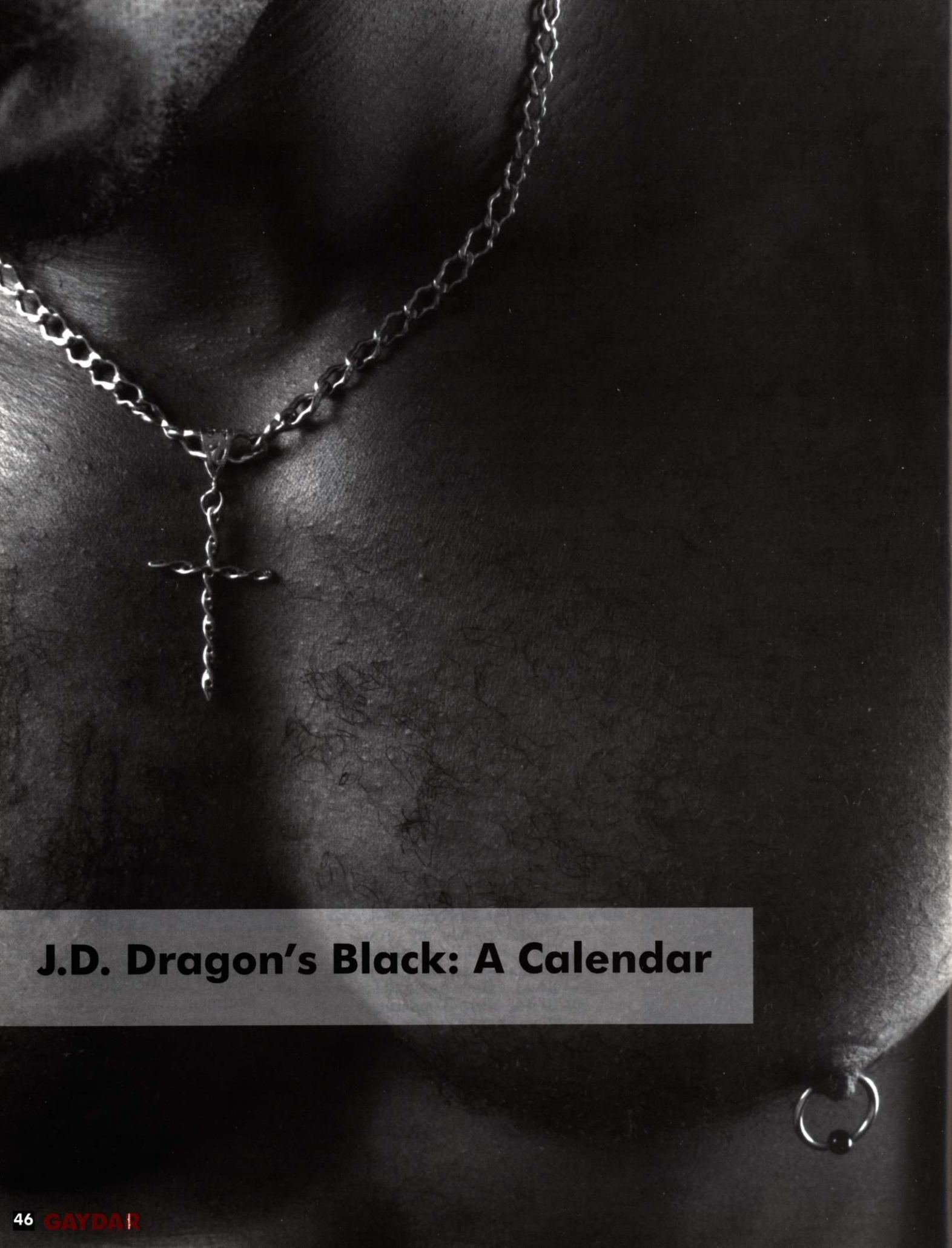
1. Tatum Channing
2. Daniel Craig
3. Chris Evans
4. Brady Quinn
5. Taye Diggs
6. Ryan Reynolds
7. Derrick Davenport
8. Sean Faris
9. Brandon Routh
10. Paul Walker



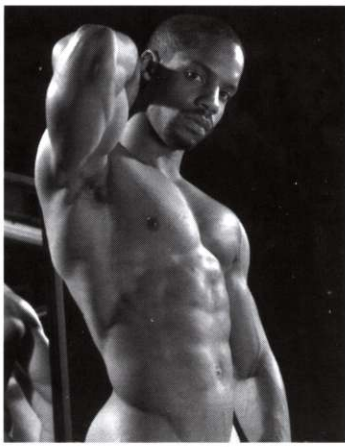
Brain Candy

1. Conversations & Cosmopolitans-Robert Rave & Jane Rave
2. 10-Lewis Peyton
3. Out in History-Thom Nichols
4. 1001 Beds-Tim Miller
5. Borrowing Time-Carlos T. Mock
6. I Have Chosen to Stay and Fight-Margaret Cho
7. High Drama-Michael Duncan
8. Gay Life & Culture-Robert Aldrich
9. Staight Talk From a Gay Jock-Mark Tewksbury
10. Howard Roffman Meets the Boys of BelAmi-Howard Roffman





J.D. Dragon's Black: A Calendar



Chris W.

"Ambitious Likeness"

As I printed each image of Chris, and this one in particular, I was stunned by the incredible beauty and flawless texture of his skin. Every negative is extremely balanced and the prints almost glow. The amazing detail of each image allowed me to see even the pores of his skin as it tightly wraps his muscled physique.

This photo is a favorite because it shows Chris' remarkable physique, coming and going. The expression on his face reflects his inquisitive nature, his boyish attitude and his eagerness to show off years of hard work in the gym.

Chris is a very unique young man. I had an extraordinary chance to photograph him only months after his appearance on Bravo's "Boy Meets Boy." In the TV show, he was in the first group of contestants. And he was the only African American man. He was eliminated in the first episode and that was the last episode I watched! Not only was he the best looking guy, but he was the smartest as well. Chris is a genetic researcher of virus strains.



Wade M.

"Unswathed Essence"

When I first saw this image come up in the developer, I knew it was a prize. This one image launched my first One Man Show in Sarasota, Florida. The photo convinced the gallery's board that my fine art photos were worthy of a major show. Wade flew in from his home in Virginia, making the show an enormous success.

So special was this image, that I used it as the exclusive picture on my business cards for a number of years. To this day, it remains one of my best shots.

Wade provided a very special chance for me. He was one of the models in a shoot I did while in San Diego. He was the only African American in the group, and immediately got my attention. Half a dozen years ago, Wade gave me a chance to experiment with men of color in a totally black space. He was the first to be photographed in this fashion. After the shoot, we became good friends, and still chat to this day. I need to photograph him again!



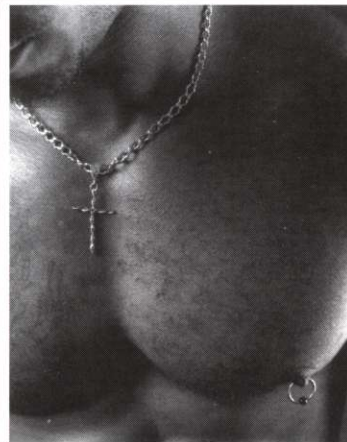
Marc C.

"Unadorned Fugue"

As I searched the negatives, looking for that introspective attitude, this print proved to be one of my top two favorites. It immediately captured Marc's vulnerable nature, his perseverance, and his dominant nature, all at the same time. In the shot, he looks wrapped in cold, a circumstance that I saw as both literal and metaphorical.

I chose this image because it shows great hope. Here is this powerful man, prostrated before us, but the warmth of light and therefore the warmth of hope streams in from the right. Marc's body is bathed in the glow that sustains and empowers him to be more than he was and lights a path into his future.

I know Marc better than most of my models since Marc is also my webmaster. As a model, Marc offers a real challenge to me. He is a gregarious, fun loving man, but he has a side that is private and protected. We all do. When I photographed him, I wanted to explore this introspective side of Marc. He makes this very difficult task easy by allowing me to be a free artist! He cooperates at all times, because he trusts me to make great art. Marc is one in a million.



Marco D.

"Perfect Union"

Marco is very difficult to photograph. Each time I shoot him, he inspires me to be political in different ways. He is the only model that makes me relaxed in a way that opens me up to social comment through my art. So when I first saw this image, I was blown away! Each shot of Marco is a gem, since when editing, I choose so few.

This image says it all. It addresses the idea of a proud Black Latino man. His hirsute chest, goatee, nipple piercing, and cross hanging from the gold chain around his neck show the complexity of all men. We see distant roots intertwined into a modern, brave man, with a small amount of anonymity.

Marco remains a most exceptional man and model. He holds a prized place in my career, since Marco was the first man of color to pose for me. I remember driving to his home in Ft. Lauderdale for our first interview. Before meeting a man for the first time, I always worry that he will not be comfortable undressed. I walked up to the door of his condo, knocked, and the door opened. There was Marco, naked. Nuff" said!



Perfect 10

Photographer Lewis Payton releases collection of iconic male images

By Jorge Treviano

The number 'ten' is an iconic number. It denotes faultlessness. The men featured in 10, Lewis Payton's limited edition collection of iconic male images are just that - perfect tens.

"I wanted each of the ten images to depict different representations of ultimate beauty," explains Payton of his collection, being released this month to bookstores nationwide and available now at www.lewispayton.com. "Obviously all of the models in the shots are physically stunning, but they have distinctly varying personalities and energy. In 10, I strived to capture their uniqueness in still images."

Payton believes that because beauty is in the eye of the beholder and varies depending on a wide array of circumstances, no one man can embody true perfection. "I try to capture the unique soul of my subjects when I shoot them. All of these men have physical beauty, but I hoped to achieve something more than just photographing physical perfection. I chose ten images that reflect the complexity of masculinity and sensuality."

Men and the male form are so often presented to us in such a specific way, either as a hero or a sexy beefcake. "Obviously, there is so much more going on inside the male mind, so I really set out to bring an emotional honesty to the photographs. I try to capture both virility and vulnerability in my male subjects. These guys are physically attractive, but I think the power of the work comes from their emotional openness."

Photographer:
lewis peyton

"I couldn't pick a favorite man in 10," Payton continues. "However, I can say that I have never seen a more perfect body than that of cover model, Ryan Daharsh. He is a living Greek statue."

Daharsh, featured twice in the collection (as well as on *our* cover) had a particular impact on Payton.

"I noticed two distinct qualities in Ryan that were equally striking," recalls Payton. "Therefore, the two images featured in 10 are in direct contrast with one another."

"The cover image is distant, masculine and heroic. The final image of Ryan is intimate, vulnerable, and very sensual; almost feminine. Both images have wonderful lines and forms to the body, yet each is embedded with its unique emotional content. Though they are opposite in tone, both images reflect perfection."

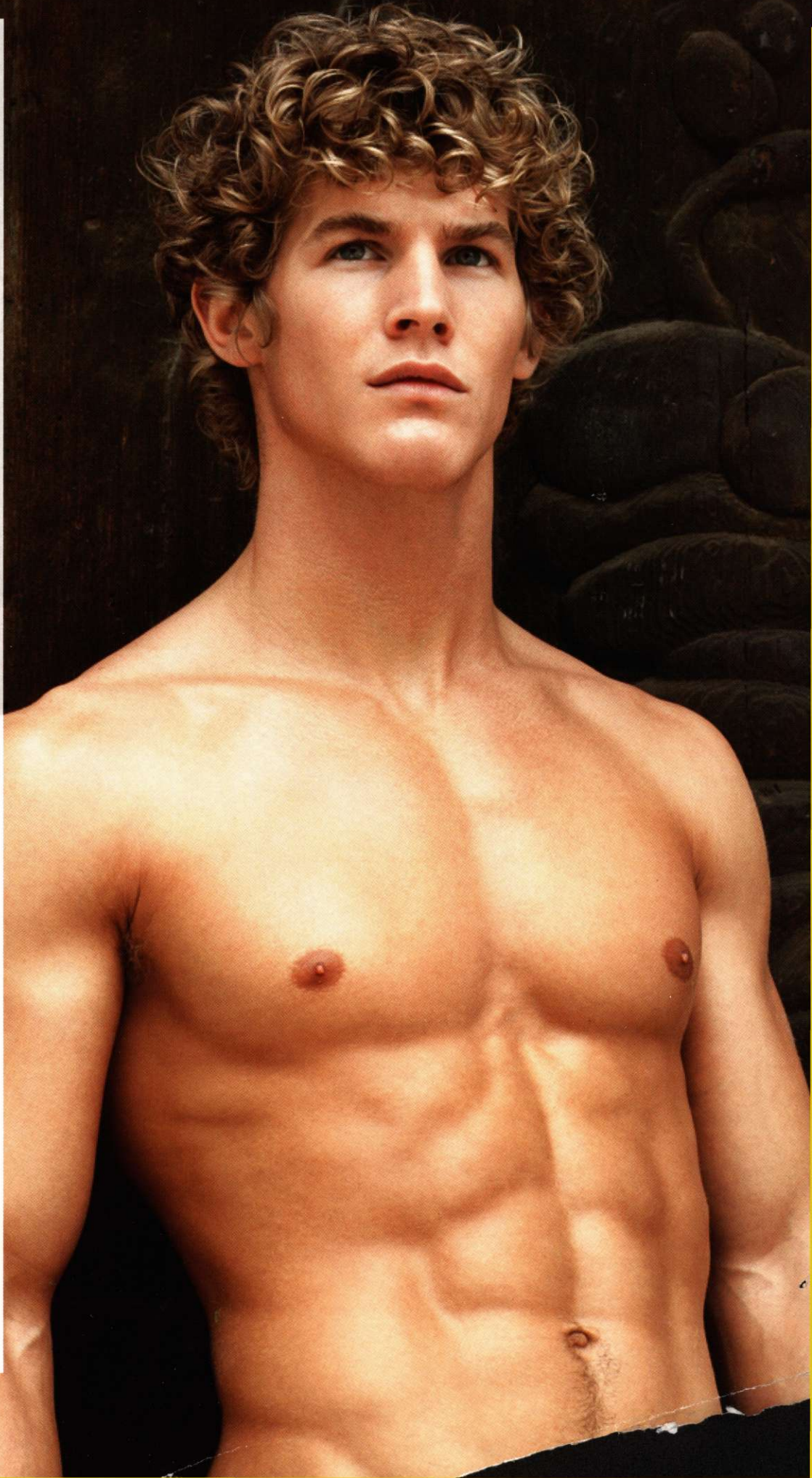
Australian born Payton started his career in journalism. In the late 90's, he lived underground for a month in Bucharest while shooting a documentary on the lives of Romania's unwanted "sewer children". He then journeyed to the Middle East to film the story of a teenage boy's imprisonment by Syria's brutal dictatorship after attempting to escape his homeland.

"I enjoy uncovering the layers of a situation or a person. I have limited interest in the surface of things and I think my work reflects that. I love physical beauty, but if it has no depth, then I quickly lose interest. The one commonality in my work is that I am always seeking truth."

Payton began dabbling in still photography in late 2002, after losing a plum writing job because the magazine wanted a words and picture deal. Payton resolved to buy a 35 mm camera and teach himself to shoot stills. He was quickly hooked. "I love the power of photography. In an era where everything is speeding up, simple photographs stop us in our tracks."

In support of the release of 10, Lewis Payton will embark on an international tour of ten iconic cities - Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Sydney, Cape Town, London, Berlin, Paris, Tokyo and Rio. At each show, he will present an expanded version of 10 in large format. The exhibited collection will feature more of Payton's renowned images along with his portraiture collection.

10, the first ever collection of Lewis Payton's acclaimed photography, is being released as a limited edition of only 3,000 copies. Retailing for \$39.00 plus \$5.95 postage and handling, 10 will be in stores this month and is available for purchase now at www.lewispayton.com.



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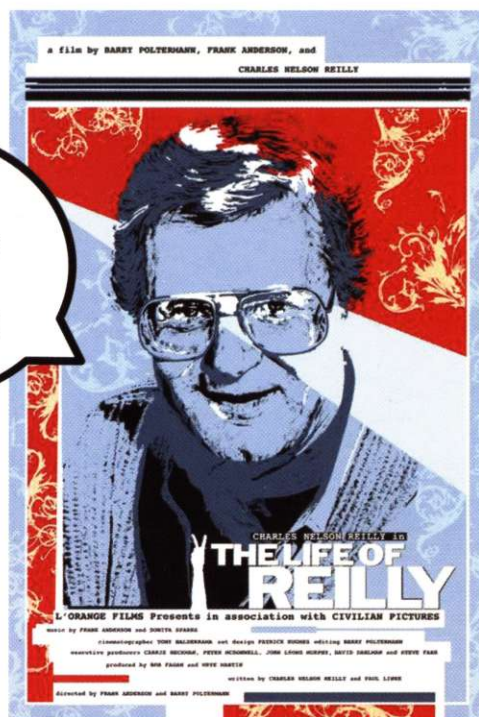
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